

COVID-19 Updates

LOCAL MEDIA REVIEW: 27 July 2020

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PART 1: LATEST STATE MEASURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Third phase of lifting of COVID-19 begins on July 28: Dr Khal](#)

The Peninsula - 26 July 2020

- The third phase of the gradual lifting of COVID-19 restrictions starts on Tuesday, July 28, said the Chair of the National Strategic Group on COVID-19 and Head of the Infectious Diseases Division at Hamad Medical Corporation, Dr Abdullatif Al Khal

[Up to 80% of staff allowed in 'all' offices from July 28](#)

Gulf Times – 22 July 2020

- The Cabinet amended its earlier decisions and allowed up to 80% of the public and private sector employees to work from offices starting July 28

[Qatar reviews quarantine policy for incoming travellers](#)

Qatar Tribune – 21 July 2020

- As part of the gradual lifting of restrictions imposed in the State of Qatar as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and based on Qatar's travel policy announced previously, have been reviewed based on public health indicators in the State of Qatar and around the world

[Government and private schools will open on Sept 1 for students](#)

The Peninsula - 16 July 2020

- The Ministry of Education and Higher Education has announced that government and private schools will open for the academic year 2020-21 on first of September
- “The Ministry confirms that it is working closely with schools’ administrations to put in place the necessary plans and procedures to ensure the safety of staff and students

[Mesaieed Hospital discharges last group of recovered Covid-19 patients](#)

The Peninsula - 16 July 2020

- Minister of Public Health HE Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, visited Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) Mesaieed Hospital today where she met with two of the last group of recovered COVID-19 patients being discharged. Mesaieed Hospital becomes the second of HMCs dedicated COVID-19 hospitals to discharge its final COVID-19 patients, following Ras Laffan Hospital at the start of July

[Qatar's Asst FM meets with Arab and African envoys, briefs them on rollback of COVID-19 curbs](#)

Qatar Tribune – 13 July 2020



- Assistant Foreign Minister and Spokesperson of the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management HE Lolwah bint Rashid Al Khater held two remote meetings with Ambassadors of Arab and African countries accredited to Qatar, to brief them on the plan to gradually lift restrictions imposed in Qatar as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and answer their questions and inquiries about the four phases of lifting restrictions

[Qatar maintained low mortality rate by detecting COVID-19 cases early: Minister](#)

The Peninsula - 11 July 2020

- The Minister of Public Health, Her Excellency Dr. Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, attended a meeting of the COVID-19 Health Tactical Command Team. Her Excellency was briefed by the team on the latest updates and plans to tackle the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in Qatar
- The Minister of Public Health said: “Qatar's strategy to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic relies heavily on community testing, tracing and quarantining in the effort to reduce the spread of the infection in our community. Early identification of cases allows for earlier treatment which may prevent complications. This has helped Qatar maintain one of the lowest COVID-19 mortality rates in the world”

[Shops to open, all commercial activities to resume on weekends](#)

Gulf Times – 8 July 2020

- The Cabinet decided that all commercial activities in the country will resume and shops will remain open on weekends, the Qatar News Agency (QNA) reports
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI), too, has issued a notification in this regard. The decision comes into effect on Thursday

[Qatar Central Securities Depository registered QR600mn in treasury bills in June](#)

Gulf Times – 9 July 2020

- Qatar Central Securities Depository (QCSD) said that it registered QR600mn in treasury bills issued by the Qatar Central Bank (QCB) in June
- QCSD registered 30,000 three-month treasuries at a total value of QR300mn. The bills maturity date is September 1, 2020

[Qatar to launch online platform for reemployment of skilled workforce](#)

The Peninsula - 5 July 2020

- Qatar Chamber in cooperation with the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs (MADLSA) are joining hands to launch an online recruitment platform with a view to facilitate re-employment of skilled labourers in the local market



[Qatar passes peak, new cases continues to fall but Covid-19 still a threat: Health Minister](#)

The Peninsula - 2 July 2020

- The Minister of Public Health HE Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari said that Qatar has passed the peak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the number of new confirmed cases continues to fall, stressing that COVID-19 is still very much a threat to the health of the population. HE Dr Al Kuwari called on everyone follow the preventative measures of physical distancing and seek medical attention immediately at the first sign of symptoms.

[Private sector work hours back to normal from Thursday](#)

Gulf Times – 2 July 2020

- The Cabinet has cancelled its earlier decision limiting work hours for private sector employees at their workplace with effect from Thursday, the official Qatar News Agency (QNA) reports. This came at the Cabinet's regular meeting Wednesday, which was chaired by HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani using video-conference technology.

[2nd phase of lifting COVID curbs begins today](#)

Gulf Times - 1 July 2020

- Phase 2 of the gradual lifting of Covid-19 restrictions gets underway today, July 1, with the reopening and resumption of different entities and activities as well as the expansion of what was allowed in the first phase on June 15. These include the reopening of more mosques, museums and heritage sites, restaurants in some tourist areas, all beaches and parks and all retail outlets in malls and commercial centres

[Entry, exit restrictions to and from Industrial Area removed: GCO](#)

Gulf Times - 1 July 2020

- Within the framework of the implementation of the second phase of the plan to gradually lift the restrictions imposed as a result of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak, the Permanent Committee for Industrial Area Affairs has decided to cancel the entry and exit points to and from the Industrial Area starting Wednesday, July 1, the Government Communications Office (GCO) said today

[Top-level meeting urges caution to prevent Covid-19 aggravation in Qatar](#)

Gulf Times - 30 June

- The recent increases in Covid-19 positive cases among Qatari and expat families could lead to increases in hospitalisations, and deaths, in the near future if people fail to follow the official prevention advice issued by the Ministry of Public Health, a top-level meeting was told



Monday. The meeting of the Covid-19 System Wide Incident Command Committee (SWICC) was attended by HE the Minister of Public Health Dr Hanan Mohamed al-Kuwari, Hamad Medical Corporation announced in a statement

[Eateries in tourist areas to resume operations](#)

Gulf Times - 30 June

- Restaurants in some tourist areas are allowed to resume operations from Wednesday, July 1, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has said. These locations are Souq Waqif, Souq Al Wakra, The Pearl-Qatar, Katara - the Cultural Village, restaurants and kiosks in sports clubs/tourist places, Qatar Museums, AlHazm and Msheireb, according to a decision issued by the ministry Monday. This is in line with the previous decisions and measures adopted by Qatar to preserve the health and safety of citizens and residents, and to limit the spread of the Covid-19, the ministry said.

[All gatherings limited to five people in phase 2 of reopening](#)

Gulf Times - 29 June

- Public and private gatherings limited to five people only will be allowed in Phase 2 of the gradual lifting of Covid-19 restrictions, and violators will be subject to the relevant offences and penalties. The number has been reduced from 10 to five people following the discovery of numerous cases among Qatari nationals due to Majlis gatherings and family visits, and among white-collar expatriates due to uncontrolled contact with no precautionary measures, the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management (SCCM) said in a statement Sunday while announcing its decision to launch Phase 2 of the gradual reopening plan, as initially planned, on July 1. The decision to launch Phase 2 on July 1 is based on the available public health data and indicators on the spread of Covid-19, including passing the peak stage, flattening the curve and reducing the virus's reproduction rate, the statement notes.

[Qatar pledges \\$10 million for WHO to combat COVID-19 pandemic](#)

The Peninsula - 27 June 2020

- The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani announced that Qatar pledged \$10 million to the World Health Organization (WHO) to support the finding of testing equipment, treatment, and vaccine for the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), in addition to its \$20 million contribution to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)

[Up to 50% staff at offices, private healthcare can operate 60% capacity from July 1: Qatar Cabinet](#)

The Peninsula - 24 June 2020

- The Cabinet decided to allow 50 per cent as maximum workforce at workplace in government and private sectors from July 1 under gradual lifting of restriction of COVID-19 during a regular meeting



- As per the new Cabinet decision private health care providers will be able to work with 60 per cent capacity from July 1

[Discover Qatar starts hotel quarantine booking for Qatari Nationals; QID holders asked to wait for procedural details](#)

The Peninsula – 16 June 2020

- Discover Qatar has started accepting bookings for 14-day mandatory hotel quarantine of Qatari Nationals returning to the country adding that non-Qatari QID holders should not make the bookings as clarifications on procedural requirement are still awaited

[Court to resume sessions with COVID-19 safety measures: SJC](#)

The Peninsula – 16 June 2020

- The Supreme Judiciary Council (SJC) announced the gradual resumption of litigation sessions while continuing to implement all preventive measures and provide a safe environment for litigants in accordance with established health regulations and requirements

[No entry or exit permit required to enter or leave Industrial Area from Monday](#)

The Peninsula – 14 June 2020

- In line with the first stage of the gradual lifting of restrictions imposed as a result of the outbreak of the Coronavirus, a decision has been made to remove the requirement for entry and exit permits to and from the Industrial Area effective Monday, 15 June, Government Communications Office (GCO) said in a statement
- Entry and exit checkpoints will remain to ensure compliance with precautionary measures, including checking: bus capacity is reduced by half, masks are being worn, and only individuals with a green health status in the Ehteraz application can enter the area

[Malls, shopping centres to operate from 8am to 8pm from Monday: MoCI](#)

Gulf Times – 13 June 2020

- Malls and shopping centres will be allowed to operate from 8am to 8pm from Monday, when the first phase of lifting Covid-19 restrictions begins, but these businesses will remain closed on Fridays and Saturdays
- This was announced by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through a notification Saturday, in line with the previous decisions and measures adopted by Qatar to preserve the health and safety of citizens and residents, and to limit the spread of Covid-19

[Private clinics allowed to operate at 40% of capacity](#)

Gulf Times – 13 June 2020



- Work can resume in all specialties at private healthcare facilities in Qatar from Monday, but services provided should not exceed 40% of their maximum capacity, a circular issued by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Healthcare Facilities Licensing & Accreditation Department

[Qatar Government working hours amended in weekly cabinet meeting](#)

The Peninsula – 10 June 2020

- The Prime Minister and Minister of Interior H E Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani chaired the Cabinet meeting through video conferencing
- At the meeting, it was decided to amend the working hours for employees in the government sector present at their place of work to be 7 hours per day starting from 7 am until 2 pm, as of Sunday June 14, 2020

[Qatar will not cut LNG production: Al Kaabi](#)

The Peninsula – 10 June 2020

- H E Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi, Minister of State for Energy Affairs and President and CEO of Qatar Petroleum, has stated that there is no question of Qatar cutting its gas production to influence the market price
- In an interview with CNBC International, H E the Minister reaffirmed that Qatar, the world's largest LNG producer, will go ahead with its original plans to ramp up gas production. "We will not consider cutting production either to control the market or to cater for the price decline," he said

[Qatar to ease COVID-19 restrictions in four phases](#)

The Peninsula – 09 June 2020

- The Assistant Foreign Minister and Spokesperson of the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management, H E Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater in a press conference gave an update on the latest developments regarding Qatar's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19
- The conference focused on gradually removing the restrictions imposed in Qatar as a result of the coronavirus. "Life activities cannot stop indefinitely, and time has come to start gradually and will be done in four phases," she said, adding that gradual lifting of restrictions will be based on striking a balance between health risks and social and economic benefits

[QCSD registers QCB T-bills worth QR600 million in May](#)

Qatar Tribune – 08 June 2020

- Qatar Central Securities Depository (QCSD) has registered the treasury bills (T-bills) issued by Qatar Central Bank during the month of May 2020 with a value of QR 600 million. The T-bills are of varying maturity periods of three months, six months, and nine months



[Amir announces Qatar's \\$20 million pledge in support of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization](#)

The Peninsula – 04 June 2020

- The Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani addressed the World Vaccine Summit 2020 in London through video conferencing today and pledged \$20 million aid for the summit, which aims to mobilise US\$ 7.4 billion to protect the next generation with vaccines, reduce disease inequality and create a healthier, safer and more prosperous world
- In his speech H H Amir reiterated Qatar's support to WHO in fighting COVID-19 epidemic

[Cabinet allows more people in vehicles; revises private sector working hours](#)

Gulf Times – 03 June 2020

- The Cabinet has decided to increase the maximum number of people allowed in a vehicle from two to four, including the driver, with families being exempted
- It has also amended its decision on determining the work hours for private sector employees present at their place of work. The revised timings are from 7am to 8pm
- Further, the Cabinet amended its decision regarding sports activities, removing the condition for such activities to take place near a person's home. Also, there is no need to wear masks

[Commercial, service activities to resume from Thursday](#)

Qatar Tribune – 03 June 2020

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry said commercial establishments can operate during the weekdays (Sunday to Thursday) from 7 am to 8 pm. While some of the services and activities are still banned, the time restriction does not apply to the following categories
- Outlets selling food products, consumer goods, and subsidised supplies such as hypermarkets, supermarkets and grocery stores; pharmacies; factories; e-commerce firms; telecommunications companies; companies operating in the hospitality sector; workshops; fuel stations and bakeries

[Most MoI services available on Metrash2 app, website](#)

Gulf Times – 02 June 2020

- The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has reiterated that most of the services offered by the General Directorate of Traffic are available on the Metrash2 app and MoI website
- These services can be availed of without visiting Traffic Directorate or MoI Services Centre, the ministry has said in a tweet



[Ministry launches digital certification service for multilingual work contract](#)

Gulf Times – 01 June 2020

- The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour & Social Affairs (MADLSA) launched Monday a digital certification service for the multilingual work contracts, with the aim of providing an integrated digital alternative to the certification of employment contracts in enterprises
- The multilingual digital certification service makes it easier for companies to conclude contracts with workers subject to the labor law by ratifying contracts via the website without the need for direct review of the headquarters of the ministry or government service complexes providing this service

[Earlier circulars on weekend closure still applicable: MoCI](#)

Gulf Times – 30 May 2020

- Circulars issued earlier regarding the closure of outlets on Fridays and Saturdays are still applicable, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has clarified
- This also applies to barber shops and women's beauty salons as well as retail outlets in shopping malls, as well as the decision exempting contracting companies, the MoCI tweeted

[PHCC opens 3 drive through swabbing hubs for Covid-19](#)

The Peninsula – 29 May 2020

- As part of the country's wide efforts to manage the Covid-19 outbreak, PHCC will be operating 3 drive through swabbing hubs at three PHCC Health Centers
- Beginning on Sunday May 31, Al Waab, Al Thumama and Leabaib health centres will operate Covid-19 Drive Through swabbing hubs. Each Health Center will be operating the drive through testing between the hours of 2pm and 10pm initially, with a view to extend hours at a later date, should this be necessary

[Ehteraz app updated with expanded security and privacy features: MoPH](#)

The Peninsula – 27 May 2020

- The new updated Ehteraz app, now available on app stores, has stronger security and privacy features
- "The Ehteraz app's user privacy and platform security are of the utmost importance. A comprehensive update of the app rolled out on Sunday 24 May with expanded security and privacy features for all users," Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) said in a statement

[MoCI announces working hours for commercial activities](#)

Gulf Times – 29 May 2020



- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) announced that the working hours for commercial and service activities from Sunday, May 31 will be from 7am to 1pm, with the exception of specific activities, as per Circular No. 23 of 2020
- Stores and offices shall continue to stay closed on Fridays and Saturday as announced earlier through Circular No. 16, again with specific exemptions
- Retails outlets in malls and shopping centres shall also remain closed, except pharmacies and those selling food products

[MoPH designates Al Salam Complex as a quarantine centre](#)

The Peninsula – 21 May 2020

- Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has designated Al Salam Complex in Muaither as a quarantine facility for the treatment of COVID-19 cases. It is managed by a group of young volunteers, who work for Qatar, and for serving the patients, wearing their facemasks and gloves to protect themselves and those around them, as soldiers in the service of the country and the people

[Approximately 3500 additional beds to be provided for COVID19 patients: HMC](#)

The Peninsula – 20 May 2020

- The Chairman of the Health System Committee for Accident Control at Hamad Medical Corporation Dr Saad Al Kaabi, revealed that in the next two weeks, an additional clinical capacity will be provided in hospitals, bringing the total number of new beds that were provided as part of Qatar's strategy to face COVID-19 to approximately 3,500 beds
- Dr Al Kaabi stressed that there is no lack of beds for patients who need hospitalization, but members of society must at the same time continue to act proactively to prevent Coronavirus infection and prevent its spread

[Qatar's International Airport deploys disinfectant robot in preparation for Post-Covid-19 Era](#)

The Peninsula – 19 May 2020

- Hamad International Airport (HIA) will be using robotics and advanced thermal screening helmets as part of the measures being introduced for the Post-COVID-19 era. The airport has implemented the latest technologies to optimize passenger and employee safety in preparation for post-COVID-19 travel
- Eng. Badr Mohammed Al Meer, Chief Operating Officer at Hamad International Airport said: "HIA has adapted to the changes brought on by the spread of COVID-19 on the world, especially on the travel sector
- Recovery plans have been put in place with priority given to the safety and comfort of travelers and employees. These plans include the use of the latest advanced technology to achieve the highest safety standards for the future travel experience



[Qatar to close shops and stop all commercial activities till May 30; restricts number of people in a car](#)

The Peninsula – 18 May 2020

- The Cabinet has decided to close all shops and stop all commercial activities from May 19 to May 30 with the exception of food and catering shops, pharmacies and restaurants that do deliveries. The Ministry of Trade and Industry will determine the other necessary activities exempted from this decision
- Cabinet also said that citizens and residents are obligated to install the EHTERAZ app
- All citizens and residents are obligated to not have more than two persons in the vehicle

[In implementation of Amir's directives, PM extends period of National Response](#)

Qatar Tribune – 18 May 2020

- In implementation of the directives of the Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani to support the private sector affected by the repercussions of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Prime Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al Thani has directed to extend the period of the National Response Guarantees Programme from six months to one year
- The National Response Guarantees Programme, which provides guarantees to local banks by the Qatar Development Bank, will become interest-free for a full year instead of six months

[PHCC designated centres to test walk-in patients for Covid-19](#)

Gulf Times – 17 May 2020

- The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) has dedicated four of its health centres (HCs) as Covid-19 Test and Hold centres in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, it was highlighted in an infographic published on the social media pages of the Ministry of Public Health, PHCC and Hamad Medical Corporation
- The four health centres are Muaiter, Rawdat Al Khail, Um Slal and Gharafat Al Rayyan

[Qatar ramps up targeted care to protect elderly, most vulnerable during COVID-19](#)

The Peninsula – 16 May 2020

- Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) urged all citizens and residents in Qatar to take every measure to keep the elderly population away and safe from the Coronavirus (COVID-19), especially as we approach Eid Al Fitr
- Global evidence has shown that while COVID-19 can affect people of all ages and health status, the elderly is much more likely to experience severe symptoms and are therefore more at risk from



becoming seriously ill if they contract the illness. In response to this evidence, HMC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), have established a comprehensive plan to help protect this vulnerable group of society

[MoI urges residents to abide by precautionary measures](#)

The Peninsula – 16 May 2020

- As Qatar is set to implement Cabinet's decision of wearing mandatory face masks on stepping out of homes, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has urged people to abide by safety measures issued by the authorities concerned to limit the spread of coronavirus

[Wearing of masks made mandatory outside home except when driving alone](#)

Gulf Times – 14 May 2020

- Qatar residents will have to compulsorily wear face masks while stepping out of home for any reason from Sunday, May 17, the Cabinet has decided

[Hospital for Covid-19 recovered patients opened](#)

Gulf Times – 14 May 2020

- Providing the best care for Covid-19 recovered male patients in Qatar, a new field hospital with 504 beds - all single rooms - has been opened at Al Sheehaniya

[Restaurants and cafes in Qatar can resume takeaway services: MoCI](#)

Qatar Tribune – 13 May 2020

- Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday said restaurants and cafes in Qatar, except for those inside the malls, can resume takeaway services. This means customers can now make and pickup orders from inside their vehicles right outside the restaurants or over the counter from inside

[MME urges adherence to law prohibiting workers' camps in family residential areas](#)

The Peninsula – 13 May 2020

- The Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME) called yesterday on owners and tenants of real estate, citizens and residents, to adhere to the provisions of the Law prohibiting workers housing camps within family residential areas, and the ministerial decision defining family residential areas and to clear all violating workers' housing in order to avoid legal accountability

[Money exchanges in Qatar to reopen from today](#)

The Peninsula – 12 May 2020

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has decided to reopen money exchange service offices with the mandatory application of precautionary measures starting Tuesday, May 12



[Qatar opens field hospital in Industrial Area](#)

Qatar Tribune – 11 May 2020

- A 200-bed field hospital that can receive between 2,000 and 3,000 patients every day opened in Industrial Area
- The facility, which was set up in just four weeks, is fully equipped to treat coronavirus (COVID-19) cases as well as patients with other ailments

[New entry, exit rules for rest of Industrial Area](#)

Gulf Times – 11 May 2020

- The Qatar government has applied new entry and exit procedures to the remaining parts of the Industrial Area, from Street 34 to Street 54
- The decision comes in continuation of the precautionary measures taken by Qatar to protect the health and safety of all citizens and residents and ensure that businesses are able to function without exposing the community to risk of infection, the Government Communications Office (GCO) said in a statement
- The new procedures will allow entry and exit for vehicles and individuals, including employers, employees and residents, provided that all precautionary measures set by relevant government bodies are followed, including those from the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs

[Strict adherence to social distancing needed to curb epidemic: Official](#)

The Peninsula – 11 May 2020

- Dr Abdul Latif Al Khal, Chair of the National Strategic Group on COVID-19 and Head of the Infectious Diseases Division at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) has said that more social distancing is required to flatten the curve of COVID-19 in the country
- “The social distancing measured by the Google Mobility report suggested that the social distancing situation in Qatar improved in the beginning then less adherence to the social distance was recorded at retail and recreation facilities like supermarkets and shopping complexes,” said Dr Abdul Latif Al Khal

[Qatar committed to providing best healthcare for all: FM](#)

The Peninsula – 10 May 2020

- Talking on COVID-19 pandemic in a virtual seminar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani has said that the strategy of the State of Qatar is based on three main pillars: providing health care, mitigating economic and social impacts, and fulfilling Qatar’s international role



- His Excellency touched on foreign policy and world diplomacy at an exceptional time, as the pandemic of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) affects all countries, saying that human development in Qatar is “at the core of Qatar’s home and foreign policy”

[Qatar International Court’s pro bono legal service launched](#)

Gulf Times – 10 May 2020

- Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC) launched a new Pro Bono Service that enables eligible individuals to receive legal advice, assistance and representation free of charge
- The service is launched at a time when many individuals may be facing difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and need to obtain legal advice as a result
- The service is the latest initiative of the Qatar International Court to spearhead the delivery of swift, fair, and efficient judgments as part of an innovative legal model for commercial and civil dispute resolution

[Ministry issues a set of exit and entry procedures for Industrial Area](#)

The Peninsula – 09 May 2020

- The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs has called upon companies and workers to comply with the preventive and precautionary measures to ensure their safety and security while entry and exit within gradual opening of the Industrial Area
- The Ministry also issued a guideline ‘Organising Exit and Entry Procedures’ for Industrial Area on its website. The guideline was prepared by the Permanent Committee for Industrial Area

[Qatar has enough hospital facilities for Covid-19 patients](#)

Gulf Times – 08 May 2020

- Hazm Mebareek General Hospital, Ras Laffan Hospital and Mesaieed Hospital, which are three of the five dedicated facilities to combat the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic in Qatar, each have 40% of their beds to spare
- “These three hospitals, along with the Communicable Disease Center and the Cuban Hospital, stand at the forefront in fighting Covid-19 in the country,” Dr Ahmed al-Mohamed, acting head of the Intensive Care Unit at the Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) explained

[Large medical complex to be opened soon in Industrial Area](#)

Gulf Times – 08 May 2020

- A large medical complex is to be opened in the coming days to provide the residents of the Industrial Area with fast and free treatment, including emergency and outpatient clinics with different specialties



and short stay, announced Dr Abdullatif al-Khal, co-chair of the National Pandemic Preparedness Committee at the MoPH and Head of Infectious Diseases at Hamad Medical Corporation

[Cabinet affirms continuation of precautionary measures to combat pandemic](#)

The Peninsula – 07 May 2020

- The Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, H E Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, chaired the Cabinet's regular meeting through video conference. The Cabinet affirmed the continuation of the precautionary measures taken

[QCB launches instructions for financial institutions to address coronavirus risks](#)

Gulf Times – 07 May 2020

- Qatar Central Bank (QCB) has launched a package of instructions for financial institutions operating in the country with a view to addressing the risks of the spread of the Coronavirus
- The QCB has allocated a page on its website with all circulars related to this matter in order to facilitate access to these circulars and enhance ability to implement them. The QCB's step is in light of the current conditions in the world and the region and to complement the precautionary efforts and measures taken by the State of Qatar to prevent and reduce the spread of Covid-19

[COVID-19 precautionary steps to continue: Cabinet](#)

Gulf Times – 07 May 2020

- The precautionary measures taken in Qatar to combat the Covid-19 pandemic will continue, the Cabinet has affirmed
- This came after the Cabinet, at the beginning of its regular meeting Wednesday, heard the explanation given by HE the Minister of Public Health on the latest developments and steps taken to curb the spread of COVID-19

[MoI: 'Remote criminal complaints through Metrash2 helps simplify procedures'](#)

Gulf Times – 06 May 2020

- The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has reiterated that the "remote criminal complaints service through the Metrash2 application helps report complaints easily and simplify the procedures"
- The MoI had recently announced the launch of the new service, enabling people to file criminal complaints at security departments through the Metrash2 application
- This new service reduces the time of communication and simplify procedures for the public in the light of the precautionary measures against Covid-19



[MoPH opens two-day drive-thru Covid-19 survey, testing hubs](#)

Gulf Times – 05 May 2020

- The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) will operate drive-through Covid-19 test, survey hubs at three health centres in the country over two days
- This would be done in collaboration with the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), Hamad Medical Corporation's (HMC) Ambulance Service and laboratories, and Qatar University (QU)
- The MoPH will take nasal and throat swabs of nearly 2,500 random people as part of a unique study to better understand the "flow of (coronavirus) in the community"

[Industrial Area reopened but entry, exit regulated](#)

Qatar Tribune – 05 May 2020

- Entry to and exit from streets under lockdown in Industrial Area is permitted again, but with strict conditions, the Government Communication Office has said
- As per the latest decision, entry and exit to Industrial Area will be allowed only for the following groups — employers and employees who work in the area but live outside and residents who live in the area but work outside
- The relaxation will let work and supply chain operations within the region and outside return to normality, while making sure that the community is not at risk of infections

[Qatar places special emphasis on developing industrial sector: Minister](#)

Qatar Tribune – 05 May 2020

- Qatar has placed special emphasis on the development of the industrial sector within the framework of its integrated efforts to diversify the national economy and bolster innovation, Minister of Commerce and Industry HE Ali bin Ahmed al Kuwari has said
- In a recent interview with Oxford Business Group (OBG), the minister said, "Qatar is reviewing its policies and developing laws to protect intellectual property rights and facilitate trademark and patent registration. Through these policies, the government seeks to empower local manufacturing companies that employ IT tools, biotechnology, and artificial intelligence in production"

[Qatar confirms its commitment to protect migrant workers amid coronavirus crisis](#)

The Peninsula – 04 May 2020

- Assistant Undersecretary of the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs Mohamed Hassan Al Obaidli said that Qatar has affirmed its commitment to preserving the dignity of expatriates and ensuring the continuation of decent work environment in Qatar and protecting expatriate workers from the negative effects arising from the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19)



- This came during the remote meeting organized by the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs, and expatriate community leaders in Qatar and Building and Wood Workers International (BWI) and a number of international labour leaders on the occasion of the celebration of International Workers Day

[Registration and renewal for maritime vessels suspended](#)

The Peninsula – 04 May 2020

- Ministry of Transport & Communications of Qatar announced that registration and registration renewal for maritime vessels has been temporarily suspended for three months
- “Given the current situation and as part of the efforts to stop the spread of the Coronavirus Covid19, it has been decided to suspend registration & registration renewal for all types of maritime vessels starting from May 2020 and for 3 months,” ministry said in statement

[Qatar tests 3.64% of population for Covid-19](#)

Gulf Times – 03 May 2020

- Qatar has tested roughly about 3.64% of the total population for novel coronavirus (Covid-19) as of May 2
- “So far, we have a total infection rate of 0.53% of the population which can be taken as one in every 189, tested positive,” said Dr Mohamed Ayoub, senior research director, Environment and Sustainability Centre, Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (Qeeri), part of Hamad Bin Khalifa University

[Qatar eyes new medicine showing positive results in COVID-19 treatment](#)

The Peninsula – 03 May 2020

- “Recently some results of the experiments which were conducted by the US on using a new medicine called ‘Remdesivir’ for coronavirus patients were found effective somehow,” said Dr Abdul Latif Al Khal, Head of the Infectious Diseases Division at Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) while speaking to Qatar TV
- He said that the new medicine which is administered through veins of critical cases of coronavirus showed help in alleviating the symptoms of disease in the patients in 11 days instead of 15 days and the mortality rate also reduced from 11 per cent to 8 per cent

[MoI: Establishment Card to be renewed automatically](#)

Gulf Times – 02 May 2020



- The General Directorate of Passports at the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has announced that the Establishment Card (computer card) of all entities will be renewed automatically without having to approaching the directorate
- The automatic renewal is subject to the following:
 - The expiration date must be on or after January 1, 2020
 - The renewal will be for two months, starting on May 1, 2020
 - The due fees will be settled later

[Qatar can run as many as 5,000 Covid-19 tests per day](#)

Gulf Times – 01 May 2020

- Qatar can currently run as many as 5,000 tests per day to diagnose cases of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) and get the results between six to 12 hours, said Dr Einas al-Kuwari, chair of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at Hamad Medical Corporation

[FM calls on international community to cooperate, unite to face COVID-19](#)

The Peninsula – 01 May 2020

- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H E Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, stressed that the priority of the State of Qatar from the first day in confronting the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was to work to ensure the health and safety of all citizens and residents and to coordinate the facilitation of response
- His Excellency added that the State of Qatar provides healthcare capabilities and services for all while maintaining its economic status. This came during the hosting of H E the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs in the “COVID Action Platform” at the World Economic Forum under the title “how to defeat the epidemic and protect livelihoods worldwide”, which was opened by President of World Economic Forum, Borge Brende, with the participation of several government officials, chief executives, and heads of humanitarian organisations

[Amir inspects production of artificial ventilators at Barzan Holding Company](#)

Qatar Tribune – 30 April 2020

- The Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani visited the Research and Development Centre at Barzan Holding Company affiliated to the Ministry of Defence at their headquarters in the Qatar Science and Technology Park, to inspect the production lines for the manufacturing of the (Savr-Q) ventilators

[Qatar's Coronavirus app Ehteraz now available on Android play store](#)

The Peninsula – 30 April 2020



- The Ehteraz app, developed to help track disease transmission chains, alert individuals and stakeholders to expedite the provision of medical support and prioritizing testing, is now available for download on Android play store. The app was initially launched on April 25 in Apple app store

[Qatar extends suspension on non-emergency services in private healthcare facilities](#)

The Peninsula – 30 April 2020

- The Cabinet decided to extend suspension of non-emergency medical services in private health facilities, including dental clinics, dermatology and laser clinics, plastic surgery clinics and surgeries, with the exception of emergency cases

[Health Minister presents Qatar's strategy to contain spread of COVID-19 to WHO officials](#)

The Peninsula – 30 April 2020

- H E Dr Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari, Minister of Public Health, provided officials from the World Health Organization (WHO) with an overview of Qatar's strategy to contain and curb the spread of COVID-19, which has focused heavily on contact tracing to isolate, test, and treat as part of breaking the chain of transmission
- Qatar has received global recognition for its efforts to contain the COVID-19 pandemic due to having one of the lowest mortality rates in the world

[Amir approves Cabinet decision on Unified Economic Registry](#)

Qatar Tribune – 29 April 2020

- The Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani on Tuesday approved the Cabinet decision No 12 of 2020 on the executive regulations of Law No 1 of 2020 regarding the Unified Economic Registry

[Amir approves decision to form committee for real estate development](#)

Qatar Tribune – 29 April 2020

- The Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani approved the Cabinet decision No 10 of 2020 to form a committee on real estate sector development strategy
- The committee will be chaired by HE Minister of Municipality and Environment, with the membership of a representative from each of Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Municipality and Environment, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs, Qatar Central Bank (QCB), Qatar Financial Markets Authority and Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry

[Commercial registrations and licenses to be renewed automatically](#)

The Peninsula – 28 April 2020

- Commercial registration and licenses with expiry date from March to June 2020 will be renewed automatically for six months said the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in a tweet



- The decision was taken by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry following state's preventive and precautionary measures to curb the spread of COVID-19

[Labour ministry calls on employers to open bank accounts for domestic workers](#)

Qatar Tribune – 28 April 2020

- The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs has called on employers to open bank accounts for domestic workers in Qatar
- The ministry's call comes the Qatar Central Bank issued a circular towards ensuring banking accounts and services for domestic workers and complements Qatar's efforts to provide banking services to all segments of the society
- The ministry said there is no minimum deposit required or service charge applicable when bank accounts are opened for domestic workers

[QF working on test to determine presence of Covid-19: MoPH official](#)

Gulf Times – 28 April 2020

- Qatar Foundation (QF) is working to develop a test that will help in terms of determining the presence of Covid-19, in addition to developing potential treatment mechanisms
- QF is also working to develop an application for diagnosis and monitoring, in co-operation with Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), according to Sheikh Dr Mohamed bin Hamad al-Thani, director of the Public Health Department at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)

[Sheikha Moza joins global leaders in UN initiative 'Rise for All' to fight COVID-19](#)

The Peninsula – 27 April 2020

- HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, UN Sustainable Development Goals Advocate, Chairperson of Education Above All and Silatech, joined prominent leaders today in a global advocacy effort, "Rise for All," to support the UN Secretary-General's call for solidarity and urgent action in response to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, and to save lives and protect livelihoods, urging leaders in all countries, across all sectors, to address the human crisis of the pandemic

[Mandatory face mask rule takes effect](#)

Gulf Times – 27 April 2020

- The new rule making the use of face masks mandatory for shoppers at food and catering stores, besides government and private sector employees and clients, and workers in the contracting sector, came into effect on 26 April
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) issued a circular requiring shoppers, customers and employees in the government and private sectors whose nature of work requires providing services



to the public to wear masks while performing their duties, as part of the preventive and precautionary measures taken by the State to curb the spread of Covid-19

[Drive-through virus tests for returnees](#)

Qatar Tribune – 26 April 2020

- The Ministry of Public Health has opened a drive-through COVID-19 testing facility for people in home quarantine in Qatar
- The facility will benefit three groups of people in Qatar — those who have not been swabbed to test for COVID-19 since returning to their homes, those who have been undergoing quarantine at home and have signed an official undertaking for this and those who have returned to Qatar from overseas between March 10 and 21

[Labour Ministry campaign about coronavirus benefits 271,174 workers](#)

The Peninsula – 26 April 2020

- The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs has educated 271,174 workers till now about coronavirus under its 'conscious' (Al Wai) campaign
- The campaign, which run from April 5 to 22 aims at raising awareness about the precautionary and preventive measures to curb the spread of COVID-19 for workers and employers at worksites and accommodations
- The campaign team made 4,151 field visits, during which 88,000 brochures were distributed in 6 different languages to workers in order to raise awareness. As much as 572,754 awareness messages were sent to employers via SMS

[Ehteraz app launched to fight Covid-19](#)

Gulf Times – 26 April 2020

- Ehteraz, a new smartphone app aimed at enhancing preventive measures and limit the spread of Covid-19 in Qatar, is now available in the Apple App Store, the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has announced
- "Ehteraz is your trusted smart application to follow up on the latest updates of Covid-19 in Qatar. Ehteraz has been designed and developed in the Ministry of Interior to support all categories of the Qatari community to spread health awareness tips and techniques as well as the protection methods that are necessary to halt the outbreak of coronavirus," according to the app information page. "This smart tool is also meant to give a hand to those people that are responsible for their families in their endeavours to protect their loved ones, and to support healthcare and related entities in order to protect the safety of individuals and that of the Qatari community"
- Earlier this month, HE the Spokesperson of the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohamed AlKhater had announced that a new smartphone app would be launched soon



[Qatar calls for end to unjust siege amid COVID-19 scare](#)

Qatar Tribune – 26 April 2020

- Qatar has renewed the call to end the unjust blockade imposed on it by some of its neighbours, stressing the disappointment of the accounts upon which the blockading countries relied on to undermine Qatar and its sovereign decision
- “Their policies, which relied on the separation of brotherly people, have affected the solidarity and regional cooperation, which has become more necessary amid the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic,” Ambassador HE Sheikha Alia Ahmed bin Saif al Thani, Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations, said in writing to the UN Security Council
- Sheikha Alia said the crisis created by the blockading countries has complicated the situation in the region and cast negative shadows on its security and stability

[MoI urges to restrict to two people in a car](#)

The Peninsula – 25 April 2020

- The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has urged motorists to restrict themselves to two people in a private car, except for families, to maintain the physical distance to curb the spread of COVID-19
- "Adherence to preventive measures to control the spread of #Covid_19 is a national and moral duty. Make sure to have no more than two individuals in your car except for families," said MoI in a tweet on its social media account

[NHRC reviews precautionary measures at workers' housing, quarantine facilities](#)

Gulf Times – 25 April 2020

- The field visits and monitoring team of the National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) has visited workers in some parts of the Industrial Area that were subjected to quarantine, several quarantine places for workers in Umm Salal and Mesaieed, and some hotels designated for quarantine, to identify the precautionary measures followed there and the quality of health services provided to reduce the spread of coronavirus (Covid-19)
- This is part of the continuation of the NHRC's visits programme, which in the previous stage, included penal institutions and places of detention. The programme will continue during the coming days to include many more institutions and bodies concerned with the application of precautionary measures approved by the official authorities to contain Covid-19

[Labour ministry asks employers to comply with conditions and specifications for healthy and safe housing for workers](#)

The Peninsula – 25 April 2020



- As part precautionary measures and preventative efforts under taken by Qatar to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), with a specific focus on the safety of all workers in Qatar, the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labor and Social Affairs, affirmed the responsibility of all employers to comply with the conditions and specifications for healthy and safe housing, so as to prevent the risk of infection or transmission

[Digital solutions supporting Qatar's Covid-19 strategy: OBG](#)

Qatar Tribune – 23 April 2020

- Working with the MoPH and Hamad Medical Corporation, the Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), part of Hamad bin Khalifa University, has been developing a series of new digital platforms – as well as redirecting existing ones – to prevent the spread of the virus
- Earlier this month, in an effort to reduce pressure on the country's health system and to minimise transmission, the QCRI launched an online self-assessment application that educates users on the symptoms of Covid-19, and advises when to seek medical help. The app has been made available in 11 languages including Arabic, English, Hindi and Filipino, and counts over 500,000 users to date
- Elsewhere, the QCRI's 'fake news' detection platform, known as Tanbih, is also being deployed in the fight against virus-related disinformation
- Data processing platform Rayyan, another QCRI initiative, allows health care experts and researchers working against Covid-19 to accumulate and process the huge amount of virus-related information that is emerging daily. Connected to the MoPH's database, the app will use GPS and Bluetooth technology to help diagnose and track Covid-19 cases, informing users if they come into contact with those who have tested positive

[Qatar makes face mask a must for several sectors from Sunday](#)

Qatar Tribune – 23 April 2020

- The Cabinet has made it mandatory for shoppers, service sector and contracting sector workers to wear masks from April 26, until further notice
- As per the decision, employees and workers in the government and private sectors whose work requires providing services to the public and clients are obliged to wear masks while carrying out their duties and tasks. Clients are also required to wear masks
- Shoppers are obligated to wear masks before they enter the food and catering stores and during shopping, and those responsible for these shops must take the necessary measures not to allow the entry of shoppers who do not comply with this decision

[Qatar announces official working hours for government and private sector during Ramadan](#)

Qatar Tribune – 22 April 2020



- Qatar's Cabinet approved a host of decisions that will be in effect from Sunday 26 April, including the rescheduled work hours of government and private employees during the holy month of Ramadan
- Cabinet has decided to reduce work hours of government employees to four hours — from 9 am to 1 pm
- Meanwhile, private employees will continue with their six-hour workdays, but on a revised schedule from 9 am to 3 pm
- Shops selling food items, pharmacies and home-delivery-only restaurants are excluded from this decision

[Industrial Area opening starts with three streets](#)

Gulf Times – 22 April 2020

- The gradual opening of the closed part of Industrial Area began, starting with Streets 1 and 2 and Al Wakalat Street
- The roads were opened for business after remaining shut for around 35 days as part of the State's efforts to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) and protect the health and safety of the inhabitants there

[MoCI issues guidelines on budget, profits for companies](#)

Qatar Tribune – 22 April 2020

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has issued a circular regarding the mechanism and method of publishing the budget and calculating the profits and losses of public and private shareholding companies in the implementation of the provisions of Article (126) of the Commercial Companies Law
- According to the ministry's circular, board chairman of respective companies must provide a copy of the budget, profit and loss account, a complete summary of the report of the board of directors, and the full text of the auditor report for the fiscal year to the competent department in the ministry before publication

[Restaurants, cafes to operate by delivering orders only, says MoCI](#)

Qatar Tribune – 22 April 2020

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) issued a circular allowing restaurants and cafes (coffee shops) to operate the delivering services
- The circular, however, excluded licensed stalls such as restaurants and cafes located in tourist areas, sports clubs, the city of Lusail, The Pearl and others, which will remain closed until further notice



- Owners of restaurants and cafes (coffee shops), which are allowed to operate, must take all precautions and preventive measures such as closing the doors of restaurants and cafes, and preventing the presence of customers inside or outside the outlets

[MoPH issues guidelines for older people to prevent contracting COVID-19](#)

The Peninsula – 22 April 2020

- Though most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience a mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment, older people are more likely to develop serious illnesses, said the Ministry of Public Health in guidance for older adults in view of the outbreak
- To protect themselves from COVID-19 older people are advised to follow the instructions of the MoPH by practicing physical distancing, staying home, avoiding crowds, parks and refraining from touching one another or surfaces

[MoCI allows remote e-voting during company AGMs](#)

Qatar Tribune – 21 April 2020

- In order to streamline procedures for Qatari companies, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) issued circular allowing remote e-voting during the annual general meetings (AGMs) of public or private joint-stock companies
- The ministry said that a decision to this effect was taken after reviewing the decision of the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management in Qatar in the implementation of pre-emptive measures to prevent all forms of gathering and in line with the law and the efforts undertaken by the state to limit the transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19) in the country

[AlKhater: 'Qatar is successfully managing the Covid-19 crisis'](#)

Gulf Times – 21 April 2020

- Qatar is successfully managing the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) crisis, HE the Spokesperson of the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohamed AlKhater said at a press conference
- “The recent increase in the number of virus infections is linked to an increase in the number of tests, and the adoption of a proactive screening approach with a view to discovering transitional strings and this is a healthy indicator in the first place,” she asserted

[Gradual lifting of Industrial Area lockdown to begin on Wednesday](#)

Qatar Tribune – 20 April 2020



- The streets under lockdown in Industrial Area will be reopened in a staggered fashion, with Streets 1, 2 and Wakalat St to be opened on Wednesday, Supreme Committee for Crisis Management Spokesperson Lolwah Rashid Al Khater said in a press conference
- Work is also going on to lift restrictions on other streets in the coming days
- While movements in and out are heavily restricted, supply runs for food, medicines and other essential items are allowed

[Visitors stuck in Qatar can stay without extending visa: Ministry](#)

The Peninsula – 20 April 2020

- Visitors in Qatar on tourist visas can stay in the country without extending their visas or paying any fee, taking into account their inability to return to their home countries due to the closure of airports
- Ministry of Interior announced that “Following the Law No. 21 of 2010 for regulating entry and exit of expatriates and their residence, it was decided to allow visitors who arrived in the country on tourist visas (on arrival and applied in advance) to stay in the country, taking into account the inability to return to their countries, due to the closure of airports in most countries of the world”

[HMC: 5,000 virtual consultations a week](#)

Qatar Tribune – 20 April 2020

- The Hamad Medical Corporation’s Urgent Consultation Service has been providing about 5,000 virtual consultations per week
- The service was started recently where patients receive care through telephone as part of efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19)

[Health Ministry issues coronavirus guidance for people with type 1 diabetes](#)

The Peninsula – 19 April 2020

- The Ministry of Public Health has issued guidance for people living with type 1 diabetes
- The guidance clarifies the ways of infections, and protective measures that should be followed by people with type 1 diabetes and

[Qatar setting up massive emergency department in Industrial Area](#)

The Peninsula – 18 April 2020

- Qatar is building a 150-bed hospital for the workers who are quarantined in Industrial Area after the streets 1 to 32 were locked down to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19)



- There is also a massive emergency department with 40 beds next to the hospital, which can see thousands of people a day

[Labour dispute resolution sessions being held remotely](#)

Gulf Times – 18 April 2020

- The Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) in co-operation with the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour, and Social Affairs (MADLSA), began holding sessions of the Labour Dispute Resolution Committee (LDRC) "remotely" to decide on urgent cases and requests, through the use of the visual communication technology currently adopted by the SJC in holding trial sessions as part of preventive measures, and efforts to curb the spread of Covid-19

[MoPH urges to act responsibly at workplace, follow safe habits](#)

Gulf Times – 17 April 2020

The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has shared health and safety tips for employees to prevent Covid-19, stressing the need for them to act responsibly and follow healthy and safe habits. "Safety is a shared responsibility and, by working together, you can take significant steps in preventing the transmission of the virus," the MoPH says in the advisory

[Cabinet extends preventive measure to combat coronavirus](#)

The Peninsula – 15 April 2020

- H E Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, chaired the Cabinet meeting this afternoon through video conferencing
- The cabinet stressed on the continuation of precautionary and preventive measures taken to combat this epidemic, in a regular session held today. The extension will be for a period of two weeks during which the situation will be evaluated to take the appropriate decision

[Four-pronged strategy against COVID-19: Qatar Health Minister](#)

The Peninsula – 15 April 2020

- The Minister of Public Health, H E Dr. Hanan Mohamed Al Kuwari has said that to curb the spread of COVID-19, the strategy of the Ministry of Public Health focuses on four points including creating awareness among the community, conducting screening, tracing the sources of infection and providing enough beds in hospitals
- "We have dedicated five hospitals for treating the patients of coronavirus and for mild cases 14,000 beds will be available by the end of this month"

[MoCI: Shareholding companies allowed remote meetings, electronic voting](#)

Gulf Times – 15 April 2020



- Under the current circumstances, and within the framework of facilitating the stockholding companies, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has issued a circular numbered 4 for 2020 regarding electronic voting in the general assembly meetings of public and private stockholding companies
- According to the circular, the enlisted public shareholding companies or private shareholding companies can hold the meetings of general assembly remotely and conduct voting on the decisions of general assembly using latest electronic means under certain rules and regulation

[MoPH boosts precautionary measures in workplaces](#)

Qatar Tribune – 14 April 2020

- The Ministry of Public Health has beefed up the precautionary and preventive measures in workplaces to contain the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). The ministry has issued instructions to employers and employees in several languages to maintain a safe working environment
- The guidelines include the responsibilities of employers, which encompasses identifying the symptoms of the virus, its transmission methods and cleaning of workplaces by installing hand sanitisers, disinfecting workplace and providing the required personal protection tools, in addition to employees' measuring the temperature using non-touch device, maintaining a safe distance, suspending the use of fingerprint scan, stop receiving visitors and cancelling external meeting

[Interior Ministry: Remote trials are 'proceeding successfully'](#)

Gulf Times – 13 April 2020

- The Ministry of Interior has confirmed that the remote trials are proceeding successfully as part the precautionary measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus (Covid-19)
- The ministry said that actual trials under this method were held at the headquarters of the Court of Appeal in Lusail through the visual communication system, which was provided in co-operation with the Supreme Judicial Council and the Ministry of the Interior

[Home delivery of medicines expanded to cover all HMC patients](#)

Qatar Tribune – 12 April 2020

- The Hamad Medical Corporation has expanded the home-delivery of medicines to all its patients in Qatar
- The expansion of the service was made possible as a result of an ongoing partnership between HMC and Qatar Post and includes both new and refill prescriptions. The service is available to all HMC patients with a valid health card



[First phase of labour ministry's Covid-19 campaign benefits over 88,000 workers](#)

Gulf Times – 12 April 2020

- The “Conscious” campaign launched by the Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs (MADLSA) to create awareness about the coronavirus Covid-19 among Qatar’s labour force has benefited over 80,000 workers in its first week
- The ministry carried out 1,474 inspection visits to workplaces, workers’ accommodations and facilities, covering a total of 88,185 workers, across the country

[Closed portion of Industrial Area to be opened in stages](#)

Gulf Times – 10 April 2020

- Details of the plan for the gradual opening of the closed portion of the Industrial Area will be announced in the coming days, HE the Spokesperson for the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohamed AlKhater said
- “This closure experience is not the only of its kind in the world, and despite its difficulty for all of us, it is a necessary option in light of this crisis. The authorities are trying in various ways to mitigate its consequences, whether on the residents of the area or employers,” she said

[Qatar to launch Ehteraz app to help combat Covid-19](#)

The Peninsula – 09 April 2020

- The Supreme Committee for Crisis Management will launch Ehteraz app on smartphones soon. The application assists in identifying disease transmission chains, alerting individuals and stakeholders to expedite the provision of medical support and prioritizing testing, H E Lulwa Al-Khater, the spokesperson for the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management, said during an address on Qatar Television

[PHCC opens two new Covid-19 test & hold centers](#)

The Peninsula – 08 April 2020

- The Primary Health Care Cooperation (PHCC) announced that Al Gharaffa Health Centre and Um Slal Health Centre will now be used as Test and Hold COVID-19 facility. This is with immediate effect starting from April 9, 2020

[Qatar’s strategic stock of food items sufficient for more than a year: Minister](#)

Qatar Tribune – 08 April 2020

- Minister of Commerce and Industry HE Ali bin Ahmed al Kuwari said that Qatar’s strategic stock of food products and other subsidised supplies is sufficient to cover demand for over a year



- Stating that Qatar's imports continue at the same pace without any change, he called upon local suppliers, outlets and manufacturers to play their natural role in importing, providing, displaying and selling goods in quantities as required by consumers

[Qatar launches \\$10 bn bond sale in international markets](#)

Qatar Tribune – 08 April 2020

- Qatar became the first sovereign from the Gulf region to successfully return to the international debt markets by issuing \$10bn in bonds in tranches of 5, 10, and 30 years
- Reopening the capital markets for the region post the recent global disruptions, Qatar priced a \$ 10 billion triple tranche offering split across \$2bn in the 5-year, \$3bn in the 10-year and \$5bn in the 30-year tenor sector.

[H H Amir directs to send medical aid to Italy](#)

Gulf Times – 07 April 2020

- His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani has directed sending medical aid to Italy to support the efforts of friends in that country to combat and contain the outbreak of the novel coronavirus epidemic (Covid-19)
- The aid includes sending two Qatari Amiri Air Force aircraft loaded with two field hospitals

[GCO launches WhatsApp information service on COVID-19](#)

The Peninsula – 06 April 2020

- The Government Communications Office launched a Coronavirus Information Service on WhatsApp. The new service, which is free-to-use, provides a central source of accurate, trustworthy and up-to-date information about Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- The coronavirus Information Service is an automated "chatbot" service that allows citizens and residents in Qatar to get answers to the most common questions about Coronavirus from the Ministry of Public Health and the GCO 24 hours a day in six languages: Arabic, English, Urdu, Hindi, Nepali, and Malayalam

[COVID-19 cases in Qatar to stabilise in coming few days: Health official](#)

Qatar Tribune – 05 April 2020

- Sheikh Dr Mohammed bin Hamad al Thani, Director of the Public Health Department at the Ministry of Public Health, said: "There are several reasons for the rise in new coronavirus cases. And one of the top reason is the increase in the number tests conducted in our laboratories. On Sunday, we conducted the highest number of tests -- about 6, 000. On Saturday, we conducted about 4,000 tests"



- The number of new coronavirus (COVID-19) cases reported daily in Qatar is likely to start stabilising in the coming few days

[Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs issues Covid-19 advisory for employers](#)

Gulf Times – 05 April 2020

- The Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs (MADLSA) has issued awareness instructions for employers, highlighting the measures companies should take in workplaces and accommodation facilities to ensure protection of workers from the coronavirus Covid-19

[Robots start patrolling streets in Qatar to avoid breaches of ban on public gatherings](#)

Qatar Tribune – 04 April 2020

- The Ministry of Interior has started using robots fitted with as many as eight cameras to monitor streets and public places to avoid breaches of the ban on public gatherings
- The robots are known as "Al-Asas", will monitor public places across the country and help reduce person-to-person encounters between police personnel and violators

[MoPH: Qatar can do 2,000 COVID-19 tests per day](#)

The Peninsula – 02 April 2020

- Qatar is moving in the right direction to flatten the COVID-19 curve and country has the capacity to test around 2,000 samples in a day
- Sheikh Dr. Mohammed Al Thani, Director of Public Health at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), said that the ministry has taken measures to introduce a more accurate test for COVID-19, which is approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), said

[Closure of part of Industrial Area, suspension of flights to continue](#)

Gulf Times – 01 April 2020

- The Supreme Committee for Crisis Management has decided to extend the closure of a portion of the Industrial Area and suspension of inbound flights to Doha, except for cargo and transit, as part of the precautionary measures to control the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak in Qatar
- Qatari citizens living abroad, in addition to Qatari children, Qatari spouses, Qatari women and those with permanent residence permits, can return to Qatar at any time, subject to a 14-day quarantine upon arrival

[80% of private sector staff to work from home](#)

Gulf Times – 01 April 2020



- Eighty per cent of the employees in the private sector will have to work from home starting Thursday as part of the government's efforts to curb the spread of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), the Cabinet has decided
- workplace timings in both the government and private sectors will be six hours-from 7am to 1pm
- All meetings held for employees and workers in the government and private sectors shall be held remotely using modern technical means. If this is not possible, and in case of necessity, the meeting shall be held with no more than five persons while taking into account the preventive measures determined by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)

[MoPH launches drive through Covid-19 testing service](#)

Gulf Times – 01 April 2020

- The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has launched a drive through Covid-19 testing service for individuals who have been undergoing quarantine at home and have signed an official undertaking for that
- The MoPH said the drive through testing was reserved for those people who meet all the following criteria:
 - Those who have returned to Qatar from overseas between 10 March and 21 March
 - Those who have been undergoing quarantine at home and have signed an official undertaking for this
 - Those who have not been swabbed to test for COVID-19 since returning to their home

[Qatar Development Bank begins implementing COVID-19 safeguard benefits for SMEs](#)

The Peninsula – 31 March 2020

- The Qatar Development Bank (QDB) has started implementing the financial benefits to be extended to small and mediums enterprises (SMEs) as part of the government's safeguard programme for such companies that are affected due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 in Qatar

[MoCI issues circular on ratified contracts](#)

The Peninsula – 31 March 2020

- Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has issued a circular on ratified contracts to hold concerts, festivals, events and special gatherings, that compels contractors and providers of these services to seek consensual agreements with clients following the directives to ban concerts, festivals, events and special gatherings
- The circular falls in line with the Ministry's efforts to ensure stability in business transactions between suppliers and consumers while taking into account the interests of both parties and avoiding material damages that may be caused to any party



[Qatar's new lab technique may lead to surge in daily COVID-19 cases: MoPH](#)

Qatar Tribune – 30 March 2020

- The Ministry of Public Health said that Qatar has put in place a “new laboratory technique” to conduct a greater number of coronavirus tests and this might lead to a surge in the confirmed cases discovered daily
- This will help in early detection of infected cases and then limiting the spread of the virus, the ministry added

[Qatar extends QR3 bn guarantees to banks](#)

Qatar Tribune – 30 March 2020

- Prime Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al Thani allocated guarantees to local banks worth QR3 billion
- The guarantees were in line with the directives of Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani to support and provide financial and economic incentives worth QR75 billion for the private sector
- Qatar Central Bank (QCB) said the amount of QR3 billion comes within the support package for granting soft loans without commissions or fees for the affected companies to support salaries and rents through guarantees issued by Qatar Development Bank (QDB) to banks

[Qatar welcomes return of Bahrainis to their homeland](#)

Qatar Tribune – 30 March 2020

- Qatar has welcomed the decision of Bahrain to allow its citizens who were transiting through Doha from Iran to return home
- The Government Communications Office (GCO) said Qatar wished that Bahrain had accepted Doha's offer to fly the Bahraini citizens home on a private charter flight, instead of prolonging their waiting time
- The statement said Qatar stands ready to play its humanitarian role during this global crisis
- It is unfortunate that Bahrain has launched allegations, false accusations and politicised the humanitarian situation of its citizens attempting to transit home

[MoI announces regulations on movement of marine vessels](#)

The Peninsula – 29 March 2020

- The Ministry of Interior (MoI) has announced some regulations on the movement of marine vessels in the context of precautionary measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus. The Ministry said in



tweet yesterday that the vessels permitted to move are the marine vessels licensed for fishing provided that all on board hold a fishing card, in addition to marine vessels of government agencies

[MoPH launches virtual health services](#)

Qatar Tribune – 29 March 2020

- The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) has activated a set of remote access channels to healthcare services at PHCC and HMC in collaboration with TASMU Smart Qatar, MoTC, Hukoomi and Qatar Post along with notable digital solution providers
- The new virtual healthcare services have been developed to ensure the safety of everyone by allowing patients to schedule an appointment with healthcare by dialing 16000 to have a virtual consultation with their healthcare provider, receiving medical advice, sick leave and get their medicine delivered to their doorstep

[QCB launches mobile payment system for 'cashless' transactions](#)

Gulf Times – 28 March 2020

- HE the Governor of Qatar Central Bank (QCB) Sheikh Abdullah bin Saoud al -Thani has launched the 'Qatar Mobile Payment System' (QMP), which provides a new and safe method for immediate electronic payment
- The system, which was recently implemented, aims to enable the user to use the electronic wallet on his or her mobile phone to carry out electronic payments from one person to another and pay the purchase price in addition to conducting withdrawals and cash feeds for electronic wallets in an instant, round the clock, seven days a week. It enables the opening of electronic wallets for all users alike, which contributes to enhancing financial inclusion in the country

[Qatar hosting 31 Bahrainis after Manama declines offer to fly them home](#)

Gulf Times – 28 March 2020

- Qatar has been providing 31 Bahraini citizens with accommodation in a quarantine hotel in Doha after they arrived in the country on a Qatar Airways flight from Iran
- As the health and safety of all individuals in Qatar, and around the world, is paramount at this time, the Ministry of Public Health has administered coronavirus tests for the 31 Bahraini citizens and provided them with accommodation in a quarantine hotel at no cost to them or the government of Bahrain

[MoCI specifies companies, shops for exemption](#)

Gulf Times – 28 March 2020



- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has specified the vital services that are exempted from the decision to change the working hours of companies and commercial shops from 6am to 7pm
- Telecommunications companies, pharmacies, factories, restaurant and food stores, petrol stations, e-commerce companies and food distribution companies are exempted from these restrictions, according to an infographic issued by the MoCI on social media
- The MoCI also reiterated its decision to shut down outlets serving hot and cold beverages, coffee shops and cafeterias until further notice

[MOI: Visit visas to be extended for a month](#)

The Peninsula – 27 March 2020

- Concerning the situation of visitors in Qatar whose visas are nearing completion and cannot return to their country, Director of the Public Relations Department at the Ministry of Interior Brigadier Abdullah Khalifa Al Muftah confirmed that it was decided to extend the on arrival or pre-entry visit visas for a month after the end of the legal period specified for each one
- The extension will be made electronically through the Ministry's website and Metrash2 without the need to visit the General Directorate of Passports or its service departments

[Amir issues law amending provisions of Prevention of Infectious Diseases Law](#)

The Peninsula – 27 March 2020

- Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani issued law No. 9 of 2020 amending some of the provisions of the Decree Law No 17 of 1990 on the prevention of infectious diseases. The law makes it compulsory for doctors, heads of institutions and employers to report about any case of infectious disease

[All exchange houses in Qatar to remain shut from Thursday](#)

Qatar Tribune – 26 March 2020

- Qatar Central Bank announced the closure of all exchange houses operating in Qatar from March 26
- The central bank has directed the exchange houses to active remote work plans to facilitate money transfers through electronic platforms
- Throughout the period of closure, money can be transferred through online exchange services, mobile applications and Ooredoo Money. All services allow users to transfer money abroad instantly either online or through their phone



[Qatar bracing up to beat COVID-19 with 18000 beds and MoCI to sign 14 contracts for strategic food stocks](#)

The Peninsula – 24 March 2020

- HE Spokesperson of the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater that work is currently ongoing to provide field medical facilities that provide basic medical and nursing services for the Coronavirus that brings the total capacity of beds to 18,000 in a few weeks, this is done in the framework of taking proactive measures and planning for the future
- Her Excellency said that within the framework of the state's plan to secure the flow of imports to the local market of food and consumer goods and supplies in sufficient quantities at reasonable prices and in high quality to meet the needs of citizens and residents, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry will sign contracts this week with 14 companies to raise the strategic stock of food and consumer goods

[Closure of retail outlets: MoCI issues clarification](#)

Gulf Times – 24 March 2020

- Ministry of Commerce and Industry issued a clarification regarding the Ministry's earlier circular on the closure of retail outlets and bank branches in mall and shopping centres
- MoCI clarified that the following outlets are excluded from the decision:
 - Pharmacies and medical centre
 - Restaurants and cafes - These are only allowed to deliver customer orders and to process take-away orders
 - Food supplies stores- such as hypermarkets, supermarkets, sweet, and ice cream shops

[General Authority of Customs: 905 food items, medical supplies exempted from customs duties](#)

Qatar Tribune – 24 March 2020

- The General Authority of Customs (GAC) has exempted 905 food items and medical supplies from customs duties for the next six months

[Qatar to send \\$150 mn to Palestinians in Gaza Strip on Amir's directive](#)

Qatar Tribune – 22 March 2020

- The Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani issued a directive to send \$150 million in financial support to Palestinians in Gaza Strip. It is to be distributed over a period of six months

[Qatar prohibits all forms of gathering](#)

The Peninsula – 21 March 2020



- The Prime Minister and Minister of Interior H E Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al-Thani issued a decision imposing precautionary measures to prevent all forms of gathering, by the power of law, including but not limited to Corniche; public parks and beaches; and social gatherings, in continuation of the efforts exerted by the State to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19)

[Ministry of Interior clarifies travel restriction on cars in Qatar](#)

Qatar Tribune – 21 March 2020

- There is no restriction on the number of persons who can travel on cars, buses or trucks in Qatar, the Ministry of Interior has said in a clarification on Saturday.
"There was an inaccurate comment at the press conference of the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management about preventing the presence of more than one person in the same vehicle," the MoI clarified on Twitter.
- It said the ban does not include transportation on cars, buses or trucks as long as the transportation is necessary

[80% employees at government agencies to start working remotely from Sunday](#)

The Peninsula – 18 March 2020

- The cabinet decided to reduce the number of employees at the government institutions to 20 percent of the total employees to complete the necessary work and for the functioning of public facilities. The rest 80 percent employees will start to work remotely from their homes or upon request, as the case may be, from Sunday, March 22, 2020 for a period of two weeks

[Qatar Chamber forms emergency committee amid coronavirus crisis](#)

Gulf Times – 18 March 2020

- Qatar Chamber's board of directors held a meeting on Wednesday to identify proactive measures that would contribute to the government's efforts against the Covid-19 health crisis and to minimise its negative impact. To enhance private sector participation during the crisis, the board decided that it will be "in permanent convention until the crisis ends." The board also agreed to form an emergency committee to follow up all developments at the level of all economic sectors and to serve as a focal point between companies and government agencies

PART 2: BUSINESS MESSAGES REGARDING COVID / THE QR 75BN STIMULUS

[QIC Group reports double digit premium growth](#)

The Peninsula – 27 July 2020

- Qatar Insurance Company (QIC), the leading insurer in Qatar and the Middle East North African (Mena) region, recorded 13 percent year-on-year growth in its Gross Written



Premium (GWP) for the first half of 2020 (H1, 2020). The QIC Group's GWP stood at QR7.2bn for H1, 2020 compared to QR6.4bn in H1 2019, despite these challenging market conditions

[Qatar-US economic partnership strengthens to \\$185bn, plans to further bolster ties](#)

The Peninsula – 27 July 2020

- The bilateral economic ties between Qatar and the US are robust and deep. The level of economic partnership between two countries has reached QR673bn (\$185bn), which is expected to double in the coming years, said Qatar's Embassy in the US

[Commercial Bank to continue to build buffers against risk: Abraham](#)

Gulf Times - 27 July 2020

- Commercial Bank of Qatar will continue to build buffers against risk for the rest of the year to protect itself from the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, according to its group chief executive officer

[Sustainable investment key to Qatar's capital market](#)

The Peninsula – 26 July 2020

- Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) launched its landmark 'Qatar Capital Market Report 2020,' which highlights major capital market advances in Qatar, identifies how comparator markets have forged ahead on their developmental journeys and how QFC and its regulatory partners can build further on its successes to become a regional world-class financial hub
- During a webinar, which coincided with the launch of "Qatar Capital Market 2020", Fahmi Alghussein, CEO, Avenicum Capital Management (Qatar) and Andrew Wingfield, Partner, Simmons & Simmons (Qatar), discussed the report's key recommendations for Qatar's capital market development

[Real Estate Price Index at record levels: Ezdan report](#)

Gulf Times - 24 July 2020

- The property sale market has gained momentum following the conclusion of 183 sale deals, mostly concentrated in the municipalities of Doha and Al Daayen, pushing the real estate price index at record levels
- This rise comes in line with the decline of the Covid-19 outbreak curve and the gradual ease down of lockdown restrictions, according to the Ezdan Real Estate report



[Fintechs' rapid development to enable QSE to facilitate retail investment in debt securities](#)

Gulf Times - 24 July 2020

- The fintechs' rapid development in Doha is promising to enable the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) to facilitate retail investment in debt securities, wherein individual investors will soon be able to trade in small lots
- "Instimatch Global, a fintech startup that recently established operations in the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), is planning to introduce a solution that breaks down bond tranches to sizes that can be traded by retail investors," said a joint report of the QFC and Refinitiv on Qatar's Capital Market

[Qatar among top 10 emerging market sovereign issuers in H1: Moody's](#)

Gulf Times - 23 July 2020

- Qatar is among the 'top 10' emerging market (EM) sovereign issuers in H1, 2020, with issuances totalling \$10bn, according to Moody's Investors Service
- Investment-grade Middle East sovereigns accounted for \$32bn of issuance in the first half of the year, Moody's said in its 'Global Emerging Market Issuance Report'

[International corporate houses will soon be able to tap Doha's capital market: Al-Jaida](#)

Gulf Times - 22 July 2020

- International corporate houses, including those from the New Economic Belt Initiative (NEBI) countries, will soon be able to tap Doha's capital market as part of Qatar's strategy to open up the markets, according to a top official of the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC)
- Moreover, the Qatar Central Securities Depository (QCSD) is being suggested to ink partnerships with global clearing and settlement houses for enabling passporting of funds.
- "While the initial emphasis will be honed on the needs of local corporates and public sector entities, Qatari capital markets will soon be able to cater to international investors as well as our NEBI partners," QFC Authority chief executive Yousuf Mohamed al-Jaida said in his foreword, in a report on Qatar's capital market, jointly prepared by QFC and Refinitiv

[QIIB posts QR512.6mn half-yearly net profit; assets top QR59bn](#)

Gulf Times - 22 July 2020

- QIIB has posted a half-yearly net profit of QR512.6mn, up 0.4% on the same period last year
- The results were announced by QIIB chairman and managing director Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Thani bin Abdullah al-Thani



- Sheikh Khalid said, "QIIB was able to respond to various challenges during the last period, benefiting from the strength and security that the Qatari economy provides to all sectors in general and the banking sector in particular

[GWC posts QR109.5mn net profit in H1; revenues top QR598mn](#)

Gulf Times - 21 July 2020

- Qatar's leading logistics provider GWC has posted a half-yearly net profit of QR109.5mn, while the company's gross revenues reached QR598.6mn at the end of June
- The company's earnings per share stood at QR0.19 in the first six months of 2020

[Quarantine rule to give a boost to Qatar's hospitality industry in Q3: CWQ report](#)

Gulf Times - 21 July 2020

- The mandatory two-week hotel quarantine for anyone entering Qatar is expected to give a boost to the country's hospitality industry in the third quarter and the sector focus will be to reinstate and build on the pre-Covid-19 figures in 2021, according to Cushman and Wakefield Qatar (CWQ)

[Qatar has lowest '2020 central government deficit-to-GDP ratio' in GCC, says S&P](#)

Gulf Times - 21 July 2020

- Qatar has the lowest "2020 central government deficit-to-GDP ratio" in the GCC at 10%, S&P Global said and noted fiscal deficits will shrink in the region from 2021, assuming oil prices improve and oil production cuts taper in line with the 'April 2020 Opec+' agreement

[QDB participates in first virtual edition of Asia Blockchain Summit](#)

The Peninsula – 21 July 2020

- In its endeavour to accelerate the digital transformation of the financial services sector in the country, Qatar Development Bank (QDB) recently participated in the Asia Blockchain Summit 2020 (ABS2020), where the bank's CEO Abdulaziz bin Nasser Al Khalifa delivered a keynote presentation on FinTech Innovation in Qatar

[Ahli Bank records net profit of QR294m in H1](#)

The Peninsula – 20 July 2020

- Ahli Bank (Ahlibank) has reported a net profit of QR294m for the first half of 2020 (H1, 2020)

[Qatar's Industrial Production Index increases 6% in May](#)

Gulf Times – 20 July 2020

- The monthly Industrial Production Index (IPI) of Qatar for May 2020 reached 104.2 points, an increase by 6.0% compared to the previous month



[Qatar well-positioned to weather COVID-19: PwC](#)

Qatar Tribune - 20 July 2020

- COVID-19 or not, there is no stopping the energy ambitions of Qatar. In fact, the pandemic may even work to Qatar's advantage by nipping some possible LNG competitions in the bud, according to PwC

[CI Ratings affirm Qatar sovereign ratings](#)

The Peninsula – 19 July 2020

- Capital Intelligence Ratings (CI Ratings or CI) has affirmed the Long-term Foreign Currency Rating (LT FCR) and Long-term Local Currency Rating (LT LCR) of Qatar at 'AA-'

[Nakilat best bet for equity investors to participate in Qatar's LNG growth: Report](#)

Qatar Tribune - 19 July 2020

- Nakilat is the best avenue for equity investors to participate in the long-term growth expected in Qatar's LNG sector, QNB Financial Services (QNBFS) has said in its latest report
- "Irrespective of the volatility of the LNG shipping market, Nakilat's business should remain relatively unaffected given the long-term nature of its charters. In the near-term, addition of four LNG vessels (two in 2020, with two next year) via its 60 percent-owned joint venture, should help earnings growth in 2020 and 2021," the report said

[QNB named 'Best Bank in Qatar' by Euromoney](#)

Qatar Tribune - 19 July 2020

- Qatar National Bank (QNB) Group, the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa, has won the award of "The Best Bank in Qatar" from Euromoney magazine's Awards for Excellence 2020

[Fitch Solutions 'more optimistic' about Qatar growth in 2021](#)

Gulf Times – 18 July 2020

- Fitch Solutions is "more optimistic" about Qatar's growth in 2021 due to favourable base effects, preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup and higher natural gas output
- While Fitch holds a "pessimistic" view about activity in 2020, it expects that Qatar's economy will "bounce back" in 2021 with an expected headline growth of 3.4% next year

[Robust master plan urged for Qatar capital market with focus on long-term debt](#)

Gulf Times – 16 July 2020

- Energy rich Qatar should have a robust master plan for capital market with top priority accorded to long-term debt, as large corporates in the energy, transport and logistics sectors



make ideal candidates for longer gestation papers, said a joint report from the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) and Refinitiv

[Qatar leads Arab states in economic indicators: QC](#)

Qatar Tribune - 16 July 2020

- Qatar's leading position in maintaining security and safety has enhanced investment climate in the country, Qatar Chamber (QC) has said in its economic newsletter for June
- The report, prepared by QC's Researches and Studies Department, outlined the advanced rankings of Qatar in many international development indicators

[QIB posts net profit of QR1.42 billion in first half of 2020](#)

Qatar Tribune - 16 July 2020

- Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) on Wednesday announced that net profit attributable to the shareholders of the bank amounted to QR1.42 billion in the first six months of 2020, which is in line with the performance during the same period in 2019

[Nakilat posts 16% jump in H1 net profit to QR550mn](#)

Gulf Times – 16 July 2020

- The successful second phase of fleet management and unhindered voyages despite Covid-19 have helped Nakilat report about 16% year-on-year jump in net profit to QR550mn in the first half (H1) of this year
- The strong financial performance is primarily attributed to operational excellence in the management of its entire fleet and realising additional revenues from the strategic acquisition of the remaining 49.9% of four Q-Flex vessels in October 2019

[Qatar banks can withstand COVID-19 impact: S&P Global](#)

The Peninsula – 15 July 2020

- Although the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent oil price drop has sparked negative rating pressure for global banks, the damage is expected to be manageable in Qatar, according to S&P Global Ratings

[Higher-rated Qatar maintains global market access with large placements: IMF](#)

Gulf Times – 14 July 2020



- Qatar and two other higher credit rated countries in the GCC region have managed to “maintain market access, with large placements in international capital markets” in recent months, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in relation to market sentiment following the pandemic outbreak

[Imports in Qatar have stabilised: GAC](#)

The Peninsula – 14 July 2020

- The General Authority of Customs (GAC) has said that the data from the Maritime Customs Administration and the Air Freight Customs Administration, have confirmed that the imports have now stabilised after witnessing a slight decline in March and April

[Significant increase in online dispute settlements amid COVID-19: QICCA](#)

Qatar Tribune - 14 July 2020

- There is a significant increase in the number of disputes being settled online as electronic arbitration has emerged one of the alternative means of solving commercial disputes due to the repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic, Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA) Board Member for International Relations Sheikh Thani bin Ali Al Thani has said

[Qatar continues lead as world's safest country: Numbeo Index](#)

Gulf Times – 13 July 2020

- Qatar continued to lead as the safest country in the world, according to the 2020 mid-year Numbeo crime index that tracks 133 countries
- Qatar was the top Arab country from 2015 to 2019, and the safest worldwide in 2017 and 2019

[Masraf Al Rayan half-yearly net profit surges to QR1.08bn](#)

Gulf Times – 13 July 2020

- Masraf Al Rayan posted a net profit of QR1.08bn for the six months that ended in June, up 0.5% compared to the same period in 2019
- Commenting on the results, HE Ali bin Ahmed al-Kuwari, Masraf Al Rayan chairman and managing director, said, “The year 2020 is considered an extraordinary year. It has witnessed several crises from early on at the economic and health levels; low oil prices have impacted the global markets, then came the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting quarantine that placed huge restraints on individuals and economic activities in its entirety and blocking movement among countries, and low consumer spending, which affected many productive and non-productive economic activities and had negatively impacted the financial and business markets”

[Digital eco-system key to Qatar’s growth: QFC CEO](#)

Qatar Tribune – 13 July 2020



- Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), one of the world's leading and fastest growing onshore business and financial centres, co-hosted a webinar with Invest Qatar entitled 'Crisis as a Catalyst: Emerging Opportunities in Qatar's Digital Sector'
- The webinar discusses the strength of the Qatari market for foreign investors as well as the role of digital transformation as a driving force for new opportunities in Qatar's digital sector
- Speaking on the occasion, QFC Authority CEO Yousuf Mohamed Al Jaida said, "QFC has long recognised the digital sector as one of the most promising growth catalysts for Qatar's economy in parallel to the government's targeted investments in Qatar's digital infrastructure. As COVID-19 continues to highlight the necessity of digital transformation, Qatar will undoubtedly witness an acceleration of opportunities in its digital eco-system for local and international firms to tap into, and the QFC will continue to be a core enabler for those firms to access our lucrative market"

[Qatar digital sector has promising potential for growth, new investments: IPAQ](#)

Gulf Times – 12 July 2020

- Qatar's digital sector has more promising potential for growth and new investments across several verticals, including artificial intelligence (AI) and fintech, according to the Investment Promotion Agency of Qatar (IPAQ)
- "Looking ahead, we expect the digital sector to continue playing a vital role in economic development, and that translates into more room for growth and new investment opportunities across various areas, including fintech, AI, education, healthcare, and industry" IPAQ chief executive Sheikh Ali Alwaleed al-Thani told a "Crisis as a Catalyst: Emerging Opportunities in Qatar's Digital Sector" event organised by the Qatar Financial Center (QFC) in association with Invest Qatar

[Qatar 'demand growth' seen picking up in 2021 on strong fundamentals: Oxford Economics](#)

Gulf Times – 12 July 2020

- Qatar's relatively strong fiscal position, planned infrastructure spending for the 2022 World Cup and ongoing benefits for public sector workers should underpin recovery in the country's demand growth in 2021, Oxford Economics has said in a report

[QNB Group posts H1 net profit of QR6.4bn](#)

Gulf Times – 12 July 2020

- QNB Group, the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region, has reported net profit of QR6.4bn in the first half (H1) of this year as it witnessed 2% rise in operating income and 10% in total assets
- Considering the global economic conditions, QNB Group opted to increase the loan loss provisions during H1 2020 by QR1.2bn to protect it from any adverse shocks in the loan book.

[5G expansion to boost Qatar, regional economies: Huawei](#)

Qatar Tribune – 12 July 2020



- Telecommunications leaders and experts from Qatar and across the world recently gathered at the SAMENA Telecommunication Council Leaders' Summit to review plans for unleashing the potential of 5G networks to boost economies and societies in a post-COVID-19 environment

[Hamad International Airport voted second-best international airport in the world](#)

The Peninsula – 11 July 2020

- Travel + Leisure travel magazine has published the 2020 World's Best Awards results where Hamad International Airport (HIA) has been voted second best airport in the world. The Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards evaluate international airports based on a global survey of their readers who vote for their favorite airport

[Real Estate Price Index rises as second phase of lifting lockdown enters into force](#)

The Peninsula – 11 July 2020

- Real Estate price index in one week has seen a leap as the second phase of lifting lockdown restrictions enters into force
- Some municipalities have registered record deals worth QR1.5bn in three property sales in the Pearl, which contributed massively to the surge of the Pearl, according to Ezdan Real Estate weekly report

[Doha Bank bid to bring in more financial firms from Japan to invest in Qatar's capital market](#)

Gulf Times – 9 July 2020

- Doha Bank is strengthening operations in its rep office in Japan to bring in more financial institutions from there to invest in Qatar's capital market, especially through its exchange traded fund (QETF), as the two countries will celebrate the golden anniversary of bilateral relations next year

[PPP law will help enhance integration of public and private sectors: Al Kuwari](#)

The Peninsula – 8 July 2020

- The issuance of the law regulating partnership between public and private sectors was a crucial step in providing an appropriate legislative framework for ensuring the private sector participation in Qatar's major development projects, Minister of Commerce & Industry H E Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari stated

[PPP essential to support economic development process: QFC CEO](#)

Qatar Tribune – 8 July 2020

- Speaking on the occasion, Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) CEO Yousuf Mohamed Al Jaida said the PPP conference aims to bring together institutions of both sectors under one umbrella to examine opportunities and exchange experience
- He noted that partnership between both sectors is essential for supporting the march of Qatar's economic development, especially under the current circumstances of coronavirus pandemic
- Citing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) report, he said, "Qatar is expected to be the only country in the region to achieve 5 percent of GDP growth and 2.4 percent growth in the consumer index during 2021."



[Cargo movement through Qatar ports sees 3-digit surge year-on-year in June despite Covid-19](#)

Gulf Times – 7 July 2020

- The general cargo movement through the Hamad, Doha and Al Ruwais ports continued unhindered in June this year, amidst Covid-19, as it saw a robust three-digit surge year-on-year, according to official figures

[Qatari ports see 100% increase in cargo](#)

The Peninsula – 7 July 2020

- Qatari ports have delivered a stellar performance in the first half of this year, despite a challenging environment created by COVID-19 outbreak
- During the first six months of this year, Hamad Port, Ruwais Port and Doha Port have registered 102 percent increase in general cargo handling compared to the same period in last year

[Merger between Masraf Al Rayan and Al Khaliiji to support profitability, scale: Moody's](#)

Gulf Times – 6 July 2020

- The proposed merger between Masraf Al Rayan and Al Khaliiji will not only support profitability but also enlarge Islamic franchise and market share as well as give the required scale to support the retail banking and contain funding costs, according to Moody's, an international credit rating agency
- The merged entity would have total assets (conventional and Islamic) of around \$45bn, or around 9% share of total banking system assets, the credit rating agency said in a note

[Qatar's expected fintech regulations to enhance digital banking ecosystem: KPMG](#)

Gulf Times – 6 July 2020

- Qatar's expected introduction of key fintech regulations will "further facilitate the build-up" of the digital banking ecosystem, KPMG has said in a report
- The Qatar Central Bank's establishment of the fintech section, Fintech Regulatory Sandbox and the launch of the Qatar FinTech Hub (QFTH); the fintech scene in Qatar is expected to grow rapidly and start disrupting the banking sector, KPMG said in its "Qatar Banking Perspectives 2020"

[QNB maintains first rank in MEA in The Banker's list of 'Top 1000 World Banks'](#)

The Peninsula – 5 July 2020

- QNB Group, the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa (MEA), maintained the first position in the MEA region on The Banker magazine's "Top 1000 World Banks" list released recently
- QNB ranked number one as the region's largest bank with Tier 1 capital rising 10.4 percent to \$24.9bn in 2019, pushing it to the 72nd position in the global ranking from the 75th position a year earlier

[Qatar embraces digitisation to advance national economy, says Mastercard executive](#)

Gulf Times – 4 July 2020



- Qatar continues to invest efforts in building a smart economy by leveraging the power of digitisation and is embracing it to advance the national economy, said Khalid Elgibali, division president – Middle East and North Africa, Mastercard
- E-commerce, Elgibali noted, continues to “show an upward tick and is also set to play an integral role in the (GCC) region’s economic recovery post Covid-19”

[S&P reaffirms Commercial Bank’s stable outlook](#)

The Peninsula – 3 July 2020

- S&P Global Ratings reaffirmed its stable outlook on Commercial Bank of Qatar, a short-term rating of A-2, and a long-term rating of BBB+. According to S&P, “the ratings on CBQ reflect our view of the bank’s sound customer franchise in Qatar, as the third largest bank in the system, and earnings generation capacity”

[QFC welcomes 170 firms in 2020 despite Covid-19 challenges](#)

Gulf Times – 2 July 2020

- As many as 170 entities have established their presence in the Qatar Financial Center (QFC) since the beginning of this year; indicating the growing interests among the global businesses in the QFC platform despite Covid-19 challenges. "Since the beginning of 2020, and despite the unprecedented economic impacts triggered by coronavirus, we have maintained our leading role in promoting Qatar’s lucrative investment opportunities and succeeded in attracting and welcoming more than 170 new firms to our platform," QFC Authority chief executive Yousuf Mohamed al-Jaida said, releasing its 2019 annual report.

[IPA Qatar, EU Delegation discuss investment opportunities](#)

The Peninsula – 2 July 2020

- The Investment Promotion Agency of Qatar (IPA Qatar), in collaboration with the EU Delegation to the GCC, on Tuesday, hosted a special webinar entitled ‘Qatar’s economic and digital transformation in the COVID-19 recovery phase’ with the participation of members of the EU Mission, IPA Qatar and the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), among others.

[Merger talks of Qatari banks boost stocks, QSE up 89 points](#)

Qatar Tribune – 2 July 2020

- Qatar’s stock market jumped on Wednesday, boosted by Masraf Al Rayan and Al Khaliji Commercial Bank after the lenders said they had started merger talks. Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) index gained 89.20 points, or 0.99 percent when the bourse closed trading at 9,087.76 points on Wednesday. The rise was mainly triggered by a 4.97 percent jump in Masraf Al Rayan. Al Khaliji Commercial Bank, which is not part of the index, gained the maximum daily limit of 10 percent.

[C Wallet secures over QR2m in grants, funding](#)

The Peninsula – 1 July 2020

- Qatar-based financial technology startup, C Wallet Services, has successfully secured more than QR 2m in grants and funding in its first year. C Wallet Services’ ‘cwallet’ is Qatar’s first and only mobile



application (app) to facilitate banking via blockchain technology. Targeting the low-income, high-volume market such as migrant and domestic workers, as well as micro-entrepreneurs, and small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), cwallet enables access to financial services such as payroll and payments

[Qatar banking sector challenges to be cushioned by system's resilience and strength: KPMG](#)

Gulf Times – 30 June 2020

- The financial year 2019-2020 has been a “challenging” one for banks operating in Qatar, KPMG said and noted the “overall impact is expected to be cushioned by the resilience and strength” of the banking system.

[Qatar attends meeting of GCC Capital Markets Authorities panel](#)

The Peninsula - 30 June 2020

- The State of Qatar participated in the 20th meeting of the GCC Committee of Heads of Capital Markets Authorities emanating from the GCC Ministerial Committee for Capital Markets, which was held via video conference yesterday. The meeting's agenda included a number of issues, most notably the executive action plan to implement the GCC inter-licensing of investment funds “Passporting”, and mechanism and timetable for its implementation, as well as road map for implementing the most important initiatives to achieve integration between the GCC Capital Markets.

[Qatar shares edge lower to settle below 9,100 level](#)

Gulf Times – 29 June 2020

- The Qatar Stock Exchange Monday lost 76 points to settle below 9,100 levels, mainly on foreign funds' substantially increased net profit booking. The industrials and banking counters witnessed higher than average selling pressure as the 20-stock Qatar Index settled 0.83% lower at 9,052.29 points amidst six banking equities – QNB, Qatar Islamic Bank, Commercial Bank, Doha Bank, QIIB and Masraf Al Rayan – trading in special segment.

[QFC inches closer to its strategic 2022 target; 20 UK firms, 11 US companies joined its platform in 2019](#)

The Peninsula – 29 June 2020

- The Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) ended the year 2019 on a high note with an exceptional growth of 35 percent, reaching 71 percent of its strategic 2022 target of 1,000 firms being registered on its platform. Total number of licensed firms in 2019 is up 323 percent beyond QFC's annual target. To meet its strategic 2022 target of 1,000 firms, a total of a total of 91 strategic fits were needed in 2019. Instead, QFC completed 294 strategic fits, including 20 firms from UK and 11 from the US. If QFC projects this growth rate till 2022, it can generate an estimated \$2.4bn in revenues and create assets worth \$1.8bn, QFC noted in its annual report.

[QIB recognised as 'Best SME Bank in Qatar'](#)

Gulf Times - 29 June 2020



- The Asian Banker, a leading international provider of strategic intelligence on the financial services industry, has recognised Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) as the “Best SME Bank in Qatar”. The award is a confirmation of QIB’s commitment to providing tailor made banking solutions covering the specific financial needs of small and medium enterprises (SME’s) and contributing to the growth and diversification of the local economy.
- QIB’s focus on SMEs operating in Qatar is reflected in the bank’s specialised "Aamaly" (meaning “My Business”) proposition, designed to provide tailored products and services to SMEs, offering financial benefits, guidance and advice from specialised relationship managers throughout all the phases of a company’s lifecycle.

[Qatar-France trade volume at a record high of QR18bn](#)

The Peninsula – 28 June 2020

- The volume of bilateral trade between Qatar and France witnessed a significant jump to reach at historic peak of QR18bn (\$4.94bn) in 2019, witnessing a double-digit growth of over 28 per cent compared to QR14bn in 2018

[Ooredoo ranks 25th in Forbes list of top 100 companies in Middle East](#)

Qatar Tribune – 28 June 2020

- Ooredoo Group was honoured recently when Forbes, the prestigious global business brand, published its listing of the leading 100 enterprises in the region
- Ranked 25th, Ooredoo Group is in the top quarter of all MENA-based enterprises, thanks to the efforts of its companies across the Middle East, North Africa and South East Asia

[Qatar’s banking system supported by strong regulatory framework, solid capital and liquidity: EIU](#)

Gulf Times – 27 June 2020

- Qatar’s commercial banks have been increasing liquidity from abroad in the form of a number of debt issues, and cash injections from the Qatar Investment Authority have bolstered banks' liquidity, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has said in an update
- The ratio of non-performing loans as a proportion of total loans disbursed by the local banks has historically been low, but it is “likely to rise” in the short term, EIU noted in a risk assessment

[Qatar’s trade balance records 22.5% surplus in May](#)

The Peninsula – 27 June 2020

- Qatar’s trade balance recorded a surplus of 22.5 percent during May 2020 compared to the previous month, but decreased by 60.4 per cent year-on-year
- The Planning and Statistics Authority said in a statement that on foreign trade, that the country’s merchandise trade balance had achieved QR5.3bn, registering an increase of approximately QR1.0bn compared to April 2020, but declined by QR8.1bn, from a year ago



[Fitch affirms Qatar at 'AA-'; Outlook 'stable'](#)

Gulf Times – 24 June 2020

- Fitch Ratings has affirmed Qatar's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) at 'AA-' with a stable outlook
- Qatar's 'AA-' ratings, Fitch said, “reflect a strong sovereign net foreign asset position, one of the world's highest ratios of GDP per capita and a flexible public finance structure allowing for favourable debt dynamics and a robust response to “limit the fiscal impact” of the coronavirus pandemic

[QFC 'Fintech Circle' to boost networking with large entities, corporates](#)

Gulf Times – 24 June 2020

- Qatar Financial Center (QFC), which is eyeing more global fintechs (including those from the US) to join its platform, will soon launch 'Fintech Circle', a co-workspace for qualifying institutions, free of charge for 12 months
- The move, which will enable fintech communities and talents to network with large entities and corporates as well as foster joint collaboration, comes in view of "booming" opportunity for the sector in the country

[Moody's: Qatar's spending cuts lowest among GCC sovereigns](#)

The Peninsula – 24 June 2020

- Among the GCC sovereigns, Qatar has announced the most modest spending cuts so far as a measure to offset the potential revenue losses against the exposure to a combination of shocks. Qatar's spending cuts so far, amount to around 4-5 per cent of GDP, while other GCC nations' cuts are something 7.5 per cent to 10 per cent, estimates Moody's

[GTA announces new deadline to file returns](#)

The Peninsula – 24 June 2020

- The General Tax Authority (GTA) has announced extending the period for tax returns by another two months
- The new deadline date to file returns will be 30 August 2020

[Qatar has competitive edge over others, says IPA CEO](#)

Qatar Tribune – 23 June 2020

- Qatar has recently made several changes designed to reform in order to become a more attractive destination for business, Investment Promotion Agency (IPA) CEO Ali Al Waleed Al Thani has said



[Qatar 'better placed' to accommodate rising deficits amid rising regional vulnerabilities: IMF](#)

Gulf Times – 22 June 2020

- Qatar is among the MENA countries "better placed" to accommodate rising deficits, although "vulnerabilities" are on the rise in the region due to lower growth and the sharp decline in oil prices, IMF has said in a report

[Qatar Airways expands global network, now operates 270 weekly flights to over 45 destinations](#)

Qatar Tribune – 22 June 2020

- The national carrier of Qatar continues to maintain its position as the largest international carrier in the world, operating over 270 weekly flights to more than 45 destinations

[Moody's affirms Commercial Bank's rating at "A3" with a stable outlook](#)

The Peninsula – 22 June 2020

- Moody's, a global credit rating agency, has affirmed Commercial Bank's unchanged long-term issuer default rating at "A3" with a stable outlook
- Despite the global spread of COVID-19 and its substantial impact on business activities and economies, Commercial Bank has maintained a long-term issuer default rating at "A3" and maintained its outlook at Stable, according to Moody'

[The Banker names QIB as the 'Best Islamic Bank' in Middle East and Qatar](#)

Qatar Tribune – 21 June 2020

- Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) continues to demonstrate its commitment to service excellence and growth by retaining its leading position in the region and winning prestigious awards from The Banker Magazine, the world's longest-running international banking title and the leading monthly title of the Financial Times Group
- The Banker has named QIB the Best Islamic Bank in the Middle East, for the second year in a row, and The Best Islamic Bank in Qatar, for the eighth consecutive year, based on the bank's outstanding performance during the fiscal year 2019

[Qatar's initiatives to support entrepreneurship, private sector](#)

Gulf Times – 20 June 2020

- Doha Bank's recent webinar discussed Qatar's initiatives to support entrepreneurship and the private sector and the role of sustainable development in reviving the economy amid the Covid-19 pandemic
- The webinar titled "Sustainable Developments in Qatar" featured experts and high-profile speakers including Sheikh Dr Mohamed bin Hamad bin J al-Thani, director, Public Health at the Ministry of Public Health; Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa, CEO, Qatar Development Bank (QDB); Sheikha Alanoud bint



Hamad al-Thani, managing director (Business Development) at the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), and Rashid bin Ali al-Mansoori, CEO, the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE)

[Qatar Chamber underscores role of PPPs in economic development](#)

Gulf Times – 20 June 2020

- The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) scheme is necessary for the delivery of various projects in different sectors, Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani has said
- According to Sheikh Khalifa, PPPs also play a significant role in providing real opportunities for the private sector in the implementation of major projects. PPPs also enhance the private sector's role as the government's "genuine partner" in the development process, he stressed

[Qatar's LNG expansion projects will not be affected by current volatility](#)

The Peninsula – 20 June 2020

- Dr. Yury Sentyurin, the Secretary-General of Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) has said that Qatar's LNG expansion programme, which aims to increase LNG output by nearly 64 percent over the next seven years, will not be affected by the current volatility in the global gas market

[Qatar ranked 6th in world economic performance list](#)

Gulf Times – 16 June 2020

- Qatar has achieved sixth rank among 63 mostly high-income countries, in economic performance in 2020, which showed its resilience. It is expected to be one of the first to rebound from the present crises, according to The World Competitiveness Yearbook 2020

[Qatar's FDI inward stock exceeds \\$31bn in 2019: UNCTAD](#)

Gulf Times – 16 June 2020

- Qatar's foreign direct investment (FDI) inward stock exceeded \$31bn in 2019, according to the latest "World Investment Report 2020" by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

[Moody's affirms A1 ratings of RasGas II-3; Outlook stable](#)

The Peninsula – 16 June 2020

- Moody's Investors Service, (Moody's) yesterday affirmed the A1 guaranteed senior secured debt ratings of Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Co.Ltd (II) (RasGas II) and Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Co.Ltd (3) (RasGas 3), together RasGas II-3. The outlook remains stable

[Qatar will stick to its gas development plans: Apicorp](#)

The Peninsula – 16 June 2020



- Albeit with a delayed final investment decisions (FID) in the energy sector across the region, Qatar will maintain its plan to increase its liquefaction capacity to 126 mtpa (170 bcm/y), up from 77 mtpa (105 bcm/y) today, capitalising on its low-cost position, Apicorp (Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation) noted in its “MENA Energy Investment Outlook 2020-2024” released

[Qatar FinTech Hub hosting Hackathon to support innovative ideas](#)

The Peninsula – 15 June 2020

- Qatar FinTech Hub (QFTH), a globally interconnected cluster which brings together a vibrant community of FinTech entrepreneurs, industry experts and investors, is inviting applications for its Hackathon programme
- The successful innovative ideas will get the opportunity to benefit from the QFTH’s incubator and accelerator programme, a great platform providing needful support and environment to innovative ideas related to the banking and financial services industry, which is witnessing major transformation. This will enable the successful ideas to grow and tap the unfolding opportunities within Qatar and other markets

[Non-oil sectors forecast to rebound strongly in 2021](#)

The Peninsula – 15 June 2020

- A significant rebound in non-oil sectors is expected in GCC economies by 2021 as lockdown ends and demand recovers. Weaker oil and COVID-19 lockdowns will squeeze GCC’s economic activity and push down 2020 forecasts
- Bassam Hajhamad, Qatar Country Senior Partner, PwC said: “Looking ahead to 2021, there should be a significant rebound in non-oil sectors, as lockdowns end and demand recovers, although oil production will only be slightly higher year-on-year. The biggest uncertainty for 2021 is the oil price. The consensus forecast of \$46 would be an improvement but still far below achievable fiscal breakeven levels for most countries. However, a wide range of prices are currently easily conceivable and leading economists forecast a range of \$40-60

[QNB: Global economy stabilises as indicators suggest a recovery is underway](#)

Gulf Times – 14 June 2020

- The decline in growth of the global economy has reached the “bottom” with activity now being set for a “significant rebound” over the coming months, QNB has said in an economic commentary

[New PPP law to support investment, activity in Qatar’s non-oil sector: FocusEconomics](#)

Gulf Times – 13 June 2020

- Qatar’s new Public-Private Partnership (PPP) law should support investment and activity in the non-oil sector even as the stimulus package worth 13% of the country’s GDP may prop up domestic demand, a new report has shown



- The “strong” fiscal stimulus package to support the non-oil private sector should cushion the downturn caused by the lockdown following the Covid-19 pandemic, according to FocusEconomics

[Masraf Al Rayan capitalisation remains robust in Q1: Report](#)

Qatar Tribune – 13 June 2020

- Capitalisation of Masraf Al Rayan (MAR) remained robust and one of the highest among its peers as the bank ended first quarter of 2020 with a capital adequacy ratio of (CAR) 19.9 percent, QNB Financial Services (QNBFS) has said in its latest report

[Doha Bank CEO underscores role of digitalisation during pandemic](#)

Gulf Times – 13 June 2020

- Widespread digitalisation, accelerated by the need to remotely access work, as well as goods and services, means equality of access to opportunities is increasing, Doha Bank CEO Dr R Seetharaman has said

[Qatar tops MENA in Global Peace Index 2020; ranks 27th globally](#)

The Peninsula – 11 June 2020

- Qatar ranked first in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and 27th globally in the Global Peace Index for the year 2020
- Issued by the Institute of Economics and Peace in Australia, the state was ranked 31 in the year 2019 GPI ranking. The 2020 report covered 163 countries globally and in MENA Kuwait comes second (39 globally) followed by UAE (41) and Oman in fourth position (68)

[Qatar Airways' share of global traffic soars in April](#)

The Peninsula – 11 June 2020

- New independent data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) has reaffirmed Qatar Airways as the airline that worked diligently to take people home safely and reliably during this crisis
- Qatar Airways' over 1.3 billion revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) during the month of April accounted for 17.8 per cent of the global market, over triple its nearest competitor and more than the next four airlines combined

[Qatar's banking sector shows resilience in times of uncertainty: PwC](#)

Qatar Tribune – 11 June 2020

- The total assets held by Qatar's eight listed commercial banks grew by QR29.1 billion to QR1.654 trillion in Q1 2020 from QR1.624 trillion in Q4 2019, the PwC has said



- Over the last three years, the total assets of these banks listed on Qatar Stock Exchange — Ahli Bank, CBQ, Doha Bank, Khaliji Bank, QIB, QIIB, QNB and Rayan — grew by QR305.2 billion, according to the latest issue of PwC’s Qatar Banking Industry report

[Qatar Airways' share of international traffic over triple its nearest competitor in April](#)

Gulf Times – 11 June 2020

- New independent data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA) clearly reaffirms “Qatar Airways as the airline that worked diligently to take people home safely and reliably” during the pandemic crisis
- Qatar Airways’ over 1.3bn revenue passenger kilometres (RPK) during April accounted for 17.8% of the global market, over triple its nearest competitor and more than the next four airlines combined

[Plans afoot to make Free Zones hub of tech firms: QFZA chairman](#)

Qatar Tribune – 10 June 2020

- Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZA) is heavily focused on promoting innovations and has a wide range of plans in place to be a premier hub for technology companies, the Authority’s chairman has said
- Speaking at a webinar organised by the US Chamber of Commerce, Minister of State and QFZA Chairman HE Ahmad bin Mohamed Al Sayed said, “We are dedicated to providing top-of-the-line services and opportunities including advanced infrastructure, tax exemptions and other attractive packages that make free zones in Qatar the destination of choice for companies looking to establish a regional presence.”

[Qatar's maritime sector continued to be busy in May despite virus woes](#)

Gulf Times – 09 June 2020

- Qatar's maritime sector continued to be busy in May this year, amidst Covid-19, as more vessels called on Hamad, Doha and Al Ruwais ports and there was a double-digit monthly expansion in the handling of general cargoes, building materials and livestock
- The general cargo handling saw 12.27% increase month-on-month to 154,314 tonnes in May 2020. It saw a 28.93% surge year-on-year, said Mwani Qatar's performance statistics

[Moody's affirms QIB's rating at 'A1' with 'stable' outlook](#)

Gulf Times – 08 June 2020

- Moody’s Investors Service (Moody’s) has affirmed the long-term deposit rating of Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) at ‘A1’ with a “stable” outlook



- International rating agency Moody's said, "The rating reflects the Bank's adequate capital buffers, good profitability and limited market-funding reliance, underpinned by its established and growing retail and corporate Islamic banking franchise."

[QIB expects growth to continue across all banking segments](#)

Gulf Times – 08 June 2020

- Qatar's leading Islamic bank QIB expects growth to continue across all banking segments as major infrastructure projects continue amid preparations for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, said chief executive officer, Bassel Gamal
- "The combined effect of lower oil prices and the impact of the Covid-19 related restrictions would normally have a more profound negative implication on the economy and government spending," he told Gulf Times

[Speed up in development projects stimulates growth of real estate sector: Ezdan report](#)

The Peninsula – 07 June 2020

- The progress achieved in the construction of highway networks in the run-up to Qatar 2022 FIFA World Cup realised a significant progress that accounts for 95 percent of total delivery, where all roads leading to Al Rayyan Stadium and the roads surrounding Al-Bayt Stadium were opened, in addition to accomplishing all construction works for the main sewage network spanning over 17km, which serves eight areas in northern Doha, including Rawdat AlJahaniya, Al-Thamid, Rawdat Iqdam, Northern Al-Nassiriya, Bani Hajir, Al-Kharaitiyat, and Izghawa, according to Ezdan Real Estate report

[Plans afoot to make Free Zones hub of tech firms: QFZA chairman](#)

Qatar Tribune – 07 June 2020

- Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZA) is heavily focused on promoting innovations and has a wide range of plans in place to be a premier hub for technology companies, the Authority's chairman has said
- Speaking at a webinar organised by the US Chamber of Commerce last Thursday, Minister of State and QFZA Chairman HE Ahmad bin Mohamed Al Sayed said, "We are dedicated to providing top-of-the-line services and opportunities including advanced infrastructure, tax exemptions and other attractive packages that make free zones in Qatar the destination of choice for companies looking to establish a regional presence."

[Nakilat to benefit significantly from Qatar's LNG expansion programme, says report](#)

Qatar Tribune – 07 June 2020

- Qatar Gas Transport Company (Nakilat) will significantly benefit from Qatar's LNG expansion programme announced recently by Qatar Petroleum, QNB Financial Services has said in a company report



- Qatar Petroleum recently announced that it has entered into three agreements with South Korean shipbuilders to reserve ship construction capacity as part of its programme to potentially build more than 100 LNG ships worth in excess of QR70 billion

[QDB played key role in Qatar's renaissance on industrial, food, health, and educational fronts](#)

The Peninsula – 05 June 2020

- Qatar Development Bank (QDB) aims to promote a culture of entrepreneurship within the private sector in Qatar and seeks to localize opportunities for small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
- In an interview with The Peninsula, Abdulaziz bin Nasser Al Khalifa, CEO of Qatar Development Bank said that food security projects gained momentum after the blockade. QDB is offering specialized programs and services amid pandemic outbreak

[Qatar posts QR4.27bn trade surplus in April: PSA](#)

Gulf Times – 04 June 2020

- Qatar's trade surplus amounted to QR4.27bn in April this year amidst higher imports from China and the novel coronavirus Covid-19, according to the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA)

[Resilient Qatar economy continues to maintain growth momentum: QC Chairman](#)

Gulf Times – 04 June 2020

- The siege against Qatar imposed by its Arab neighbours on June 2017 failed to slow the rapid growth of the country's economy even as the government managed to transform its impact into economic benefits, Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani has said
- According to Sheikh Khalifa, the economic blockade only accelerated Qatar's economic development and enhanced foreign trade, especially after the opening of the Hamad Port and the inauguration of direct sea shipping routes to a number of countries

[Qatar highest ranking GCC country in 2020 FM Global Resilience Index](#)

Gulf Times – 02 June 2020

- Qatar is the highest ranking country in the Gulf Cooperation Council region in the 2020 FM Global Resilience Index, which is the definitive ranking of nearly 130 countries by the resilience of their business environments
- Qatar topped the region with a country rank of 27; country score of 81; economic score of 100; risk quality score of 59.8 and supply chain score of 60
- No other GCC country ranked in the index had figured in the top 49 in the 2020 FM Global Resilience Index

[Qatar capital market seen needing short-term, good quality Shariah products](#)

Gulf Times – 02 June 2020



- Qatar's capital market needs short-term good quality Islamic money market products to help the banking sector strengthen the liquidity during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a top official of the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC)
- "It is imperative to ensure the continuous operation of efficient and smoothly operating Qatari financial markets. This includes Islamic financial institutions, which require development of short-term and good quality money market products," Thaddeus Malesa, senior advisor for Economics and Research at the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) Authority, said

[PPP law confirms confidence in Qatar's private sector: Minister](#)

Qatar Tribune – 02 June 2020

- The Minister of Commerce and Industry HE Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari has praised the PPP law regulating the partnership between the public and private sectors
- The minister said the law translates the belief and confidence of Qatar's wise leadership in the ability of the private sector to participate effectively in the economic development of the country
- In a statement issued on 01 June, the minister said that the issuance of this law will ensure constructive cooperation between the public and private sectors that have contributed to strengthening the Qatari economy despite various regional and global challenges

[Sufficient foreign assets to help GCC maintain currency peg: S&P](#)

Qatar Tribune – 02 June 2020

- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) sovereigns can maintain their pegged currencies as all of them have sufficient access to foreign currency assets or external financial support to meet pressures on their exchange rates, S&P Global Ratings has said in a report
- The ability of Gulf countries to defend their currencies' pegs, to the dollar in most cases, has come under scrutiny as historically low oil prices and the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic have pressured their economies

[PPP law will spur growth and drive industrial diversification: Manateq CEO](#)

The Peninsula – 02 June 2020

- The Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani's recent ratification of the most awaited Law No. 12 of the year 2020, regulating Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects, will accelerate Qatar's economic growth and industrial diversification in a big way
- It will also ease a lot of burden and free valuable resources on the part of the government which can be optimally utilised for other purposes, said the CEO of Manateq (Economic Zones Company, Qatar), Fahad Rashid Al Kaabi

[Governments must start bolstering economic infrastructure to boost recovery, says al-Jaida](#)

Gulf Times – 01 June 2020



- The governments must start building economic infrastructure to strengthen international trade to support steady and inclusive (global economic) recovery, according to a top official of the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC)
- “Preparing for the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic is equally important to the strict containment measures,” QFC Authority chief executive Yousuf Mohamed al-Jaida said in the joint declaration of the World Alliance of International Financial Centers (WAIFC), in which the QFC is a member

[PPP Law supports the performance of national economy, says Sheikh Khalifa](#)

Gulf Times – 31 May 2020

- Qatar Chamber lauded the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Law issued Sunday by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani
- According to Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani, the PPP law would enhance the contribution of the private sector in the mega projects and in the economic activity, in general
- “The law would enable the private sector to be a genuine partner to the public sector in achieving the economic development,” Sheikh Khalifa said in a statement

[Islamic finance to help countries navigate COVID-19 impact: S&P](#)

Qatar Tribune – 31 May 2020

- Islamic finance social instruments, in particular, Qard Hassan, Social Sukuk, Waqf, and Zakat can help core Islamic countries, banks, and corporations navigate the current COVID-19 crisis, S&P Global Ratings has said in its latest report
- As regulators and policymakers around the world seek to establish a more sustainable, stakeholder-focused, and socially responsible financial system for the future, S&P Global Ratings notes there are certain similarities between Islamic finance and sustainable finance

[Qatar fiscal balance to GDP set to rise to 3.2% in 2024: FocusEconomics](#)

Gulf Times – 30 May 2020

- Qatar’s fiscal balance as a percentage of GDP is set to rise to 3.2% in 2024 from an estimated -6.9% this year, FocusEconomics has said in its country report
- The country’s merchandise trade balance may scale up to \$50.6bn from \$24.4bn this year
- According to FocusEconomics, Qatar’s public debt (as a percentage of GDP) has been forecast to fall to 61.8 from 65.6 this year

[Qatar Airways to gradually restart flights to major cities](#)

Qatar Tribune – 30 May 2020



- In line with the increasing demand for travel and the easing of restrictions imposed on entry by many countries, Qatar Airways on Saturday said it would gradually restart its flights to several major cities and the headquarters of its airline partners around the world
- Earlier this month, Qatar Airways said it would increase operations to a total of 80 destinations by the end of June, "in line with the expected relaxation of entry restrictions around the world"

[Growing appetite for Shariah-compliant banking, takaful products in Qatar: OBG](#)

Gulf Times – 28 May 2020

- Shariah-compliant banking and takaful products see an increasing appetite in the local market, although conventional players still dominate Qatar's banking and insurance sectors, Oxford Business Group has said in a report
- Islamic financial services (IFS) are playing an increasingly important role in Qatar's economy, and the sector is poised for growth as the gas-rich country continues to invest in infrastructure and the expansion of its energy sector

[Qatar Airways maintains 'flexible, agile network' amid Covid-19 challenges](#)

Gulf Times – 28 May 2020

- Qatar Airways has maintained a flexible and agile network since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic although Covid-19 lockdowns have led to an almost complete standstill in airline travel worldwide

[Qatar achieves self-sufficiency in essential products; supply chain well diversified: KPMG](#)

Gulf Times – 27 May 2020

- Qatar has achieved self-sufficiency in most of the essential products of daily use including milk and several other perishables, KPMG said and noted the country's supply chain is extremely well diversified, leaving a remote possibility for disruption
- The supply chain, which was strengthened during the blockade, is well supported by a strong logistics infrastructure powered by the new Hamad Port at Mesaieed and Qatar Airways Cargo service

[Qatar fintech prospects seen brighter amid digital shift](#)

Gulf Times – 25 May 2020

- The prospects for fintech in Qatar have improved "very well" mainly due to online payments and remittances, as social distancing, a measure to lessen the spread of coronavirus Covid-19, accelerates the need for digital solutions, according to a senior official of the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC)
- "There has been substantial infrastructure and regulatory work advanced in the country to prepare the grounds for them to succeed in the local context," Henk Hoogendoorn, managing director, Financial Sector Office, QFC, said in an editorial



[Qatar tops GCC sovereign issuances in Q2: NBK](#)

Gulf Times – 25 May 2020

- Qatar has topped the GCC sovereign issuances in the second quarter of 2020-to-date with \$10bn of the total \$24bn, a report by National Bank of Kuwait has shown
- Qatar issued \$10bn in three tranches with maturities ranging from five to 30 years, NBK said in an economic update
- The final pricing yields for Qatar's 10-year dollar-denominated bond was around 3.8%, reflecting higher spread over the respective US treasury yields, it said

[Qatar has 'solid line-up' of infrastructure, hospitality projects in preparation of 2022 influx of visitors](#)

Gulf Times – 25 May 2020

- Qatar still has a “solid line-up” of infrastructure and hospitality projects to prepare itself for the large influx of visitors in 2022, although the tournament's flagship projects, such as the stadia, are nearing completion, Oxford Business Group (OBG) has said in a report
- Despite some concerns for Qatar's construction industry surrounding a “narrowing pipeline” for 2022 FIFA World Cup-related projects and a more general global economic slowdown, there is much reason for optimism within the sector in the years ahead

[Qatar real estate market may shift towards 'better value proposition and affordability', says KPMG](#)

Gulf Times – 23 May 2020

- Qatar's real estate market is likely to shift further towards “better value proposition and affordability” due to decline in rentals because of the socio-economic impact of Covid-19, a new report has shown

[QDB extends coverage period of National Response Guarantee Program](#)

Qatar Tribune – 21 May 2020

- Qatar Development Bank (QDB) has included companies operating in the contracting and construction sector to take advantage of the COVID-19 National Response Guarantee Program, and extended the period of QDB's coverage of the percentage of financing profits granted through the programme to 12 months instead of six months only
- Under this decision, companies wholly owned by the private sector and affected by the repercussions of the novel coronavirus pandemic are entitled to benefit from the national guarantee program launched by QDB in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the Qatar Central Bank and all banks operating in the country

[Qatar banks' net profit growth averages 5.5% in 2019: KPMG](#)

Gulf Times – 21 May 2020



- Qatar saw robust year-on-year expansion, especially in food and chemical production as well as a marginal increase in the hydrocarbon extraction, led its industrial production expand this March
- The country's Industrial Production Index (IPI) was up 0.2% year-on-year but declined 0.6% month-on-month in March 2020, said the figures released by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA)
- The PSA introduced IPI, a short-term quantitative index that measures the changes in the volume of production of a selected basket of industrial products over a given period with respect to a base period 2013

[Moody's affirms QIIB rating at 'A2' with stable outlook](#)

Gulf Times – 21 May 2020

- QIIB has announced that the credit rating agency Moody's has affirmed the bank's rating at 'A2' with a stable outlook, which confirms the strength of its financial position and ability to meet various market challenges
- In its affirmation of the bank's rating, Moody's indicated that it was based on a number of factors, the most important of which is that QIIB is one of the leading Islamic banking institutions in Qatar, especially in the retail sector

[Qatar's industrial production index increases slightly in March 2020](#)

Qatar Tribune – 21 May 2020

- Qatar's industrial production index (IPI) reached 100.8 points in March, down by 0.6 percent compared to the previous month (February 2020), and increased by 0.2 per cent compared to the corresponding month of 2019, according to the data issued by the Planning and Statistics Authority
- This index reflects the details of the growth of the three industrial economic sectors of mining, manufacturing, electricity production and water desalination, whose relative weightage is (83.6 per cent), (15.2 per cent), (0.7 per cent) and (0.5 per cent) respectively

[Qatar Airways ranks most trusted airline in region, second globally](#)

The Peninsula – 21 May 2020

- Qatar Airways continues to accomplish new feats, even in these exceptional circumstances. The national carrier of Qatar has emerged as the most trusted airlines by travellers in the Middle East and North Africa region in the Airline Trust Index. Qatar Airways has been voted second globally in the Airline Trust Index compiled by flight compensation app Colibra
- "The airline (Qatar Airways) also boasts an impressive OTP (On-Time Performance) of 82.5, which scored them 5 for this category. Qatar also scored high for customer review and staff service," said Colibra

[Qatar telecom sector capex tops QR1bn annually since 2015: CRA](#)

Gulf Times – 20 May 2020



- Investments and capital expenditure (capex) by the telecom sector have been higher than QR1bn in the last five years and increased considerably in 2019, the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) has said in a report.
- Retail telecom sector investments last year amounted to QR1.7bn and it earned a revenue of QR9.7bn

[Oil prices expected to recover on rising demand, hopes of pandemic fading away](#)

Gulf Times – 20 May 2020

- Oil is gradually starting to rise as coronavirus-afflicted economies ease their closures and travel restrictions this month, with production subdued against the backdrop of current low prices and massive capital spending cuts by oil and gas producers
- The world may return soon, and the pandemic gradually fade away, but a recovery will be long and will take longer for the current low oil price environment to end
- With prices likely to rise on recovery of demand for fuel, Brent crude has reached \$35 a barrel and the WTI \$32 a barrel.

[Capital Intelligence affirms QNB ratings; outlook remains 'stable'](#)

Gulf Times – 19 May 2020

- Capital Intelligence (CI), an international rating agency, has affirmed the long-term foreign currency rating (LT FCR) and short-term foreign currency rating (ST FCR) of QNB at 'AA-' and 'A1+', respectively
- At the same time, CI has affirmed QNB's bank standalone rating (BSR) of 'a', core financial strength (CFS) rating of 'a-' and extraordinary support level (ESL) of "very high". The outlook for all ratings remains "stable"

[Exports by Qatar's private sector reach QR1.94 billion in March](#)

Qatar Tribune – 19 May 2020

- The exports of the private sector in Qatar reached QR 1.94 billion in March 2020, achieving stability compared to the previous month of February when it was QR 1.954 billion
- The essential and industrial oils group came first in the private sector exports' list with exports amounting to QR 777 million, recording an increase of 40 per cent compared to February

[CI affirms QIB rating at A+ with stable outlook](#)

Qatar Tribune – 19 May 2020

- Capital Intelligence (CI), the international credit rating agency, has affirmed the long-term foreign currency and short-term foreign currency ratings of Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) at 'A+' and 'A1' respectively, with stable outlook



- In its recent report, CI said, “The rating is supported by strong asset quality, strong profitability at both the operating and net levels, and strong capitalisation. Non-financial supporting factors include a strong franchise and market position as the leading Islamic bank in Qatar and as the second largest bank in the system”

[Qatar’s telecom sector revenues for 2019 amounts to QR9.7 bn](#)

Qatar Tribune – 19 May 2020

- The Telecommunications Market Report published by Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) showed that the revenues of the telecommunications sector in Qatar for the year 2019 amounted to QR9.7 billion
- The report indicated that retail telecom sector investments for 2019 amounted to QR1.7 billion. The number of fixed voice communication and fixed broadband service subscribers reached half a million, while the number of fixed broadband service subscribers reached 300 thousand

[QSE seen built on a strong base of profitable companies](#)

Gulf Times – 19 May 2020

- Qatar’s Covid-19 relief package for the private sector will give visibility for the local businesses in the short term and the country is expected to see a privatisation wave in the coming period, according to Aventicum Capital Management, a joint venture of the Qatar Investment Authority and Credit Suisse
- “We are decidedly optimistic on the QSE (Qatar Stock Exchange) in the long-term. The Qatari market has built a strong base of very interesting and profitable companies, this has given us assurance that it will continue to be able to exceed investor expectation,” said Talal F Samhouri – who is responsible for managing Qatari and the Gulf mandates, including the Doha Bank-sponsored QETF – at Aventicum

[Qatar’s export volume expected to increase significantly: OBG](#)

Qatar Tribune – 18 May 2020

- Qatar’s export volume is expected to increase significantly this decade as Qatar Petroleum (QP) has commissioned six new LNG trains and a new petrochemical cracker capable of producing 1.9 million tonnes of ethylene per year, Oxford Business Group (OBG) has said in its latest report
- These projects will boost LNG output by 64 per cent by 2027 and polyethylene by 82 per cent by 2025, OBG said citing QP estimates

[Google, Microsoft data centre projects to boost Qatar’s IT sector: Cushman & Wakefield](#)

The Peninsula – 18 May 2020

- The proposed data centre projects by Google Cloud and Microsoft Azure under the Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZA) will not only allow the public sector and private companies, especially financial services to become more efficient compared to their global peers but will also boost Qatar’s IT sector



- The high-profile move which is expected to further attract foreign investment into the country, may also result in a higher demand for office space, Cushman & Wakefield has said in its First Quarter (Q1) Real Estate Market Review
- In its latest report, the global real estate services firm said that Qatar's commercial office market is yet to be fully affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Except for a reduction in the number of new enquiries for office accommodation since mid-March, the initial impact of Covid-19 on the commercial office market has been limited to date

[QFC welcomes Credit Agricole CIB, Vakifbank to its platform](#)

Gulf Times – 16 May 2020

- Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) has welcomed Credit Agricole Corporate and Investment Bank (Credit Agricole CIB), and VakifBank to its platform, both authorised by the Qatar Financial Centre Regulatory Authority (QFCRA)
- The newly licensed banks represent a key milestone in the QFC's strategy to attract an increasing number of financial institutions to its platform. Credit Agricole CIB, the corporate and investment arm of the Credit Agricole Group, specialises in the businesses of capital markets and investment and corporate banking and also represents the 12th largest banking group worldwide in terms of tier 1 capital

[QR75bn stimulus key to ensure sustainability of businesses: Seetharaman](#)

Gulf Times – 16 May 2020

- Qatar's QR75bn financial and economic incentives programme is "very important and plays a key role in sustainability of businesses and avoiding a setback to the economy," says Doha Bank CEO Dr R Seetharaman
- Aviation, hospitality, food and transportation are some of the priority sectors under the stimulus package
- The government's decision to inject QR10bn into the Qatari bourse is a "major step" that infused enormous amount of confidence in the market

[Private sector seen as leader in nation building, economic development: Sheikh Khalifa](#)

Gulf Times – 16 May 2020

- On the back of vital government support, the private sector is seen to contribute further in efforts to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) and to continue its role in nation building and economic development
- As early as last year, Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani said, Qatar announced a series of legal reforms and policies that ensures ease of doing business by streamlining procedures and other regulations in the country



[GCC to tap wealth reserves to cover budget deficit: Fitch](#)

Qatar Tribune – 15 May 2020

- The GCC countries will massively tap their fiscal and sovereign wealth reserves to cover budget deficit this year due to low oil income and to offset impact of coronavirus on their economies
- For Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Qatar, sovereign wealth fund assets will remain sufficient to cover years of spending and nearly a decade in non-oil deficits, although in Kuwait's case accessing the bulk of SWF assets will require parliamentary approval. Economic contraction will even increase the headline ratio of sovereign net foreign assets to GDP

[QR10bn support for QSE entities to enhance investor confidence: Al-Mansoori](#)

Gulf Times – 14 May 2020

- Qatar's stimulus package for the private sector, especially the QR10bn support to the listed entities, has considerably enhanced investors' confidence in Doha's capital market, as reflected in "significant" increase in average daily trade value on the Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE)
- "The move, it seems, has encouraged investors and given them confidence, as reflected in the average daily trading values, which have increased significantly during the months of April and May compared to the same period of last year," QSE chief executive officer Rashid bin Ali al-Mansoori said

[Qatar makes big jump in readiness for energy transition: WEF](#)

Qatar Tribune – 14 May 2020

- Qatar is more ready than ever to embrace energy transition, according to the latest edition of World Economic Forum's (WEF) Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2020 report
- The report says that Qatar, the second highest-ranking country in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region after Morocco, has made significant progress in the energy transition advancing a full 11 points in the ranking
- Qatar's positive performance over the past 12 months allowed the country to take a podium position landing first globally in the Economic Development and Growth indicator

[Qatar's CPI inflation declines in April on Covid-19-related social restrictions](#)

Gulf Times – 14 May 2020

- The Covid-19-related social distancing and other measures restricting social gatherings had a substantial knock-on effect mainly on the recreation and transportation sectors, resulting in Qatar's consumer price index (CPI) inflation, especially core, decline this April, according to the official statistics
- Qatar's cost of living, based on CPI inflation, plummeted 3.06% and 1.33% on yearly and monthly basis respectively this April, said the figures released by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA)



[Qatar dealing with COVID-19 better than others: KPMG](#)

Qatar Tribune – 13 May 2020

- Qatar is weathering the new coronavirus (COVID-19) storm better than many other countries, KPMG Qatar has said in its latest report
- In its report entitled ‘Potential impact of COVID-19 on the Qatar economy’, KPMG Qatar said, “While Qatar has been impacted by the new coronavirus, there are several key factors that contributed to Qatar’s relatively better outcome so far”

[‘Qatar’s telecom sector demonstrates technical capability during COVID-19’: CRA](#)

Qatar Tribune – 13 May 2020

- The telecommunications sector in Qatar has demonstrated great technical and business capacity in dealing with the repercussions of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, President of the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) Mohammed Ali al Mannai has said
- He added that the sector, with all its components, was able to successfully deal with the changes imposed by the current situation

[Qatari private sector companies need to adapt to new changes, post Covid-19: Saad al-Kuwari](#)

Gulf Times – 12 May 2020

- Qatari private sector companies need to adapt to new changes, such as market trends, habits and sale methods, post Covid-19, prominent oil strategist and columnist Saad al-Kuwari has said
- “The work practices adopted and implemented in the past would change... and would not be the same again. For example, customers may be more inclined towards buying groceries online, instead of going to supermarkets. This will bring in new delivery methods”

[S&P affirms Qatar’s rating with stable outlook](#)

Qatar Tribune – 11 May 2020

- International rating agency ‘S&P Global Ratings’ announced that it has affirmed its ‘AA-/A-1+’ long- and short-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings on Qatar with a stable outlook
- “The stable outlook indicates our view of broadly balanced risks to the ratings. Despite a sharp economic contraction and low hydrocarbon prices, we don’t expect the government’s fiscal and external stock positions will materially deteriorate beyond our expectations. We expect a timely policy response from the government in the context of continued liquidity challenges in the international capital markets,” S&P said in a report on Qatar

[KPMG predicts COVID-19 pandemic will ‘peter out’ in Qatar by late summer](#)

The Peninsula – 11 May 2020



- KPMG in Qatar is optimistic that Qatar's COVID-19 cases will stabilise by late summer and expects business to start opening after a phased easing of the shutdown
- "While Qatar has been impacted by the new coronavirus, it seems to be weathering the storm better than many other countries. The rate of infection in the country is similar to Germany and the UK, but this has so far not been translated into a high mortality rate, which means Qatar is effectively combating the pandemic", Ahmed Abu-Sharkh, Country Senior Partner, KPMG in Qatar said

[QSE-listed firms cumulatively report net profit of QR8.39bn in 1st quarter](#)

Gulf Times – 10 May 2020

- The Qatar Stock Exchange (QSE) listed firms cumulatively reported net profit of QR8.39bn in January-March (Q1) this year with the banking and financial services sector alone contributing 71% to it, according to the bourse data
- "This indicates the strength of our listed companies in the face of exceptional circumstances," QSE chief executive officer Rashid bin Ali al-Mansoori said

[Private sector maintains a key role in economic development amid pandemic: Sheikh Faisal](#)

Gulf Times – 10 May 2020

- "Qatar's business community has proven be highly-responsible throughout the various exceptional circumstances that came over the Qatari economy, in particular, and the international economy, in general," said QBA chairman HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani during a recently-held video conference with HE the Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani
- "Besides, the private sector is not only seeking support and finances but it simultaneously working to assume an effective role at the economic and commercial activities in the country as part of its sense of responsibility towards the nation and for the good of the two parties," he stressed

[Qatar's private sector firmly behind government in facing Covid-19 consequences: Hussain Alfardan](#)

Gulf Times – 10 May 2020

- Qatar's private sector is firmly behind the government in facing the consequences of Covid-19, said Hussain Ibrahim Alfardan, First Deputy Chairman of Qatari Businessmen Association
- Alfardan appreciated the meeting HE the Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani had with the representatives of the private sector recently, describing it as "transparent, clear and open" for discussing all the issues in the light of the current conditions due to the global pandemic
- "We, as a private sector, will not spare any effort to support the efforts of the government in any field," Alfardan said, highlighting the initiatives being undertaken by the private sector since the breakout of the pandemic



[Real estate sector development panel to help boost realty market: Ezdan](#)

The Peninsula – 10 May 2020

- The approval to the Cabinet decision to form a dedicated committee on `real estate sector development strategy` will provide plenty of opportunities in the real estate sector, creating a big boom in the market, according to Ezdan Real Estate
- This is considered as an ideal time to establish the committee in light of the pressuring challenges facing this sector, the foremost of which is the widescale Covid-19 outbreak, which triggered a slump in demand for residential properties on one hand, in addition to promoting telecommuting and remote working, which may have adverse effects on the volume of demand for units on the long run, the report noted

[Qatar Chamber Chief: Private sector 'grateful' for government support](#)

Gulf Times – 09 May 2020

- Major players and stakeholders in the private sector have expressed their gratitude for the support provided by the government to help businesses weather the impact of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic
- In a video conference with HE the Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz al-Thani, Qatar Chamber chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani said, "The private sector highly-appreciates the directives of the His Highness the Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani to support the private sector and enhance its participation in economic development."

[QFB total income increases 7% to QR34.2 mn in first quarter](#)

Qatar Tribune – 08 May 2020

- Qatar First Bank (QFB), a leading Shari'ah compliant bank based in Qatar, released its financial results for the first quarter of 2020
- The bank's core business, aside from negative impact of COVID-19, recorded a profit of QR12.3 million attributable to equity holders of the bank in the first quarter of 2020 compared with a net profit of QR3.2 million of the same period in the previous year

[Qatar's stimulus plan lifts its economic prospects](#)

Gulf Times – 08 May 2020

- Doha is "incredibly" resilient, and its immediate economic prospects have been lifted with the government's multifaceted stimulus plan, a top official of the Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) said
- "Qatar is incredibly resilient, as we have seen since the onset of geopolitical tensions in 2017, which pushed Qatar to be resourceful and look for hidden opportunities while piecing together disparate connections," said Thaddeus Malesa, Senior Adviser, Economics and Research of the Financial Sector Office at the QFC



[Qatar Airways plans phased expansion to 52 destinations by May end and 80 in June](#)

The Peninsula – 06 May 2020

- Qatar Airways announced that the airline will begin a phased approach to expanding its network in line with passenger demand evolution and the expected relaxation of entry restrictions around the world
- Having maintained flights to at least 30 destinations where possible during this crisis and to most continents, helping to take over 1 million people home, the airline has been in a unique position to closely monitor global passenger flows and booking trends to confidently begin planning the gradual reintroduction of additional flights and destinations to its network

[QCB to encourage venture capital financing, start-up development: Sheikh Abdulla](#)

Gulf Times – 06 May 2020

- Qatar Central Bank's second strategic plan involves setting up policies that encourage the deepening of venture capital financing and ensure the development of SMEs, including start-ups, according to HE the QCB Governor Sheikh Abdulla bin Saoud al-Thani
- Another focused strategy for SMEs is being monitored through the Qatar Development Bank (QDB), which has developed several innovative programmes to provide short-, medium- and long-term capital to SMEs
- In order to provide a national-level, comprehensive strategy for the sector, a clear definition of SMEs was provided, and measures were undertaken to reduce barriers to bank lending for these entities

[Qatar accounts for bulk of LNG supplies to Asia in 2019: IGU](#)

Gulf Times – 05 May 2020

- Qatar accounted for bulk of the 36.3mn tonnes LNG supplies to Asia from the Middle East in 2019, the International Gas Union has said in its latest report
- Asia has the third largest liquefied natural gas trade flow from the Middle East
- There were also significant flows from the Middle East to Asia Pacific, which was the second largest trade flow last year, but has now settled at 31.2mn tonnes

[QSE benchmark index gained 6.8% in April](#)

The Peninsula – 05 May 2020

- After witnessing the lowest declines in March 2020 in the GCC, Qatar stock market retraced higher in April, as the QSE-20 index went up by 6.8 per cent month-on-month
- The Qatar All Share index which maps the broader market moved up by 6.9 per cent, as all sectors closed in the green for the month



[QCB issues QR600 million treasury bills for May](#)

Gulf Times – 05 May 2020

- Qatar Central Bank (QCB) issued treasury bills for three, six and nine months for May with a value of QR600mn
- According to a QCB statement, the treasury bills are distributed as following: QR300mn for three months at an interest rate of 0.40%; QR200mn for six months at an interest rate of 0.64%, and QR100mn for nine months at an interest rate of 0.66%
- The issuance comes as part of the QCB's monetary policy initiatives and its efforts to strengthen the financial system as well as to activate the tools available for the open market operations

[QNB launches campaign for Life Rewards credit card holders](#)

Gulf Times – 05 May 2020

- QNB Group recently launched its new 'Stay Safe' campaign, which allows customers to get 50% extra Life Rewards points when using their QNB Life Rewards credit cards on e-Commerce (online) and PIN-less transactions until May 31
- QNB understands that safety measurements are a top priority for its customers by minimising contact and abiding to social distancing rules. QNB cards are equipped with state of the art payment capabilities to keep the cardholder safer and more secure through Tap and Pay (contactless transactions) with a PIN-less capability for purchases up to QR300 per transaction at Point of Sale terminals

[Hamad International Airport marks 4.7% increase in cargo operations in Q1 2020](#)

Qatar Tribune – 04 May 2020

- The Hamad International Airport (HIA) has announced that it handled 529,436 tonnes of cargo during the first quarter of 2020, which signifies a 4.7 per cent increase in the global hub's cargo activity in comparison to the same quarter the previous year
- In detail, HIA handled 529,436 tonnes of cargo in the first quarter of 2020, with 176,279 tonnes in January, 173,248 tonnes in February and 179,909 tonnes in March

[Anti-COVID 19 liquidity support amounts to \\$41bn in GCC: IMF](#)

Gulf Times – 04 May 2020

- Anti-coronavirus liquidity support has amounted to \$41bn in the GCC, about 2% of the region's GDP, a report by International Monetary Fund (IMF) has shown
- Policy efforts have appropriately focused on mitigation and containment, and targeted support to hard-hit households, sectors, and businesses, IMF said in its recent 'Regional economic outlook'



- Qatar's lending to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and direct support to domestic equity market were highlighted in the IMF report

[Qatar an ideal destination for investment: Sheikh Khalifa](#)

Qatar Tribune – 04 May 2020

- Qatar has showcased itself as an ideal investment destination with a strong and vibrant economy, Qatar Chamber Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim bin Mohammed al Thani said
- In an interview with the Oxford Business Group published in its issue “The Report: Qatar 2020”, he said that several global business indices and rankings agencies have recognised the advantages Qatar offers to businesses, ranking it increasingly higher among attractive FDI destinations worldwide
- Qatar ranked 29th globally and second among Arab countries out of 141 nations on the World Economic Forum’s 2019 Global Competitiveness Index

[8,600 residential units may be added in Qatar by end-2020: ValuStrat](#)

Gulf Times – 03 May 2020

- Approximately, 8,600 residential units are projected to be added in Qatar during the remaining quarters of 2020, assuming there are no construction delays, researcher ValuStrat has said in a report
- Total housing stock by end of Q1, 2020 was approximately 299,100 units with the addition of 900 apartments and 500 villas during the quarter

[Financial aid to help GCC firms absorb COVID-19 shock: Fitch](#)

Qatar Tribune – 03 May 2020

- Interest rate cuts and financial aid such as temporary loan repayment relief in GCC countries should help the SMEs and the private sector hit hardest by the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, Fitch Ratings has said in its latest report
- To be able to provide assistance to cushion the impact of the coronavirus, the report said, most central banks in the region have relaxed capital and liquidity requirements and scaled back other lending restrictions

[QIC issues \\$300 million capital notes](#)

Qatar Tribune – 03 May 2020

- Qatar Insurance Company (QIC) on Saturday announced the successful issuance of \$300 million perpetual non-call 5.5 years subordinated Tier 2 capital notes



- The notes were issued through QIC (Cayman) Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle incorporated in the Cayman Islands, for the purpose of the issuance and guaranteed by Qatar Insurance Company. The notes will be rated BBB+ by Standard & Poor's

[Qatar Airways still flying to many cities around the world](#)

The Peninsula – 02 May 2020

- Qatar Airways is still operating flights to 35 cities around the world including London, Paris, Frankfurt, and Sydney, helping thousands of passengers get home safely
- “We are still operating flights to 35 destinations around the world while upholding the safety and security of our passengers and employees at all times,” the airline said on Twitter

[Qatar's virus package, mega projects take centre stage in OBG report](#)

Qatar Tribune – 30 April 2020

- Qatar's bid to continue diversifying its economy, while introducing a QR75 billion (\$20.6 billion) stimulus package to ease the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, is explored in detail in a new report by the global research and advisory firm Oxford Business Group (OBG)
- The Report: Qatar 2020 shines a spotlight on the country's list of megaprojects, many of which will support the country as it prepares to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup
- It also considers Qatar's plans to increase liquefied natural gas (LNG) output by around two-thirds, while cushioning the industry against the recent fall in demand for hydrocarbons, fuelled by the coronavirus

[GIS revenue rises 16% to QR 832 million in Q1](#)

Qatar Tribune – 30 April 2020

- Gulf International Services (GIS), one of the largest diversified services groups in Qatar with interests in oil and gas drilling, insurance, helicopter transportation and catering services, announced that it reported a net profit of QR8.7 million for the first quarter of 2020
- The Group's revenue grew by 16 percent to reach QR832 million in the first quarter of 2020, compared to the same period last year

[Ooredoo reports revenue of QR7.3 billion in Q1 2020, net profit at QR387 million](#)

Qatar Tribune – 30 April 2020

- Ooredoo Group reported a net profit of QR387 million for the first quarter (Q1) of 2020
- The group reported revenue growth of 1 percent year-on-year to QR7.3 billion supported by robust growth in Indonesia, Tunisia, Myanmar and other markets, which was partially offset by a COVID-19 impact, a reduction in handset sales and macroeconomic weakness in some of our other markets



Capital Intelligence affirms QIIB rating at 'A' with stable outlook

Qatar Tribune – 29 April 2020

- Capital Intelligence (CI) Ratings has affirmed its ratings of Qatar International Islamic Bank (QIIB) at 'A' with a stable outlook reflecting the strength of the bank's financial position
- The ratings agency noted that it has affirmed the Long-Term Foreign Currency Rating (LT FCR) and Short-Term Foreign Currency Rating (ST FCR) of QIIB at 'A' and 'A1' respectively based on a set of criteria that indicate that the various bank data and numbers are in a strong and stable position
- The agency also stressed that QIIB has a strong deposit base, its assets are characterised by quality, and enjoys strong profitability, good capitalisations and continued operating efficiency gains, as the credit concentrations in its real estate sector are declining

QIC Group gross written premiums rise 5% to QR3.7bn in first quarter

Gulf Times – 29 April 2020

- QIC Group reported a 5% increase in gross written premiums to QR3.7bn in the first quarter of 2020
- In the corresponding period last year, QIC Group, the leading insurer in the Mena region, had registered gross written premiums worth QR3.5bn

COVID-19 impact: KPMG highlights top 5 challenges for Qatar's banking sector

The Peninsula – 28 April 2020

- The KPMG in Qatar has identified five top critical challenges that could be so serious to Qatar's banking sector in the light of COVID-19 pandemic
- The COVID-19 impact on the country's financial services sector includes liquidity pressures, revenue compression and credit quality deterioration, the KPMG said in its soon-to-be released COVID-19 case study on Qatar's banking sector

Qatar maintains position as world's largest LNG exporter in 2019: IGU

Gulf Times – 27 April 2020

- Qatar managed to maintain its position as the largest liquefied natural gas exporter in the world (at 77.8mn tonnes) in 2019, International Gas Union (IGU) said in its "2020 World LNG Report"
- Global LNG trade increased further in 2019, reaching 354.73mn tonnes, an increase of 40.93mn tonnes since the end of 2018. This constitutes an increase of 13%, a sixth year of consecutive growth
- Most of the additional exported volumes in 2019 were from existing exporting markets: US (+13.1mn tonnes), Australia (+8.7mn tonnes) and Russia (+11mn tonnes)



- “The Qatar LNG expansion plan is progressing towards final investment decision (FID) and those capacity additions could re-position Qatar as the market with the largest liquefaction capacity globally”

[Qatar’s sound financial system ‘supportive’ of its outlook, says EIU](#)

Gulf Times – 27 April 2020

- Qatar’s sound financial system is “supportive” of its outlook, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said and noted the country’s currency regime should be able to “weather the short-term shocks” posed by the coronavirus pandemic
- The country’s large stock of public debt, however, weighs on its outlook, the EIU said in its latest economic update. Nonetheless, the EIU noted “Qatar’s ability to fully service its debt obligations remains strong”

[Qatar banks post more than 9% jump in total assets in March: QCB](#)

Gulf Times – 26 April 2020

- The credit line of Qatar's commercial banks, especially for the private sector, appears to be strong, thus helping in a more than 9% year-on-year growth in their total assets in March 2020, according to Qatar Central Bank (QCB) figures
- Total assets in the country's commercial banking system stood at QR1.59tn with domestic assets constituting QR1.38tn, or 87%, of the total and overseas assets at QR213mn, or 13%, of the total

[Chamber officials laud Qatar’s economic initiatives during health crisis](#)

Gulf Times – 26 April 2020

- Top officials and representatives of different committees at Qatar Chamber have lauded the government’s assurance of continuous economic activity and strategic stocks during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Qatar Chamber Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim al-Thani has praised the efforts of the government in trying to arrest the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19), even as he encouraged citizens and residents to comply health and safety regulations to ensure the success of these initiatives

[QC holds remote seminar on legal, technological challenges for arbitration](#)

The Peninsula – 26 April 2020

- Participants of a distance seminar organised by the Qatar Chamber’s (QC) Qatar International Center for Conciliation and Arbitration (QICCA) have affirmed that many global initiatives and endeavours are calling for the endorsement of cyber arbitration as a tool for implementing the social distance adopted by world countries in light of the current crisis of COVID-19 pandemic



[Qatar Airways Cargo sets record with 136 flights to 51 destinations in a day](#)

The Peninsula – 26 April 2020

- With global air freight capacity declining, Qatar Airways Cargo has increased operations to ensure the continuity of global trade and movement of essential medical and aid supplies. The airline continues to operate a significant cargo schedule with approximately 100 flights per day
- During the past month the cargo operator has worked closely with governments and NGOs to transport over 100,000 tonnes of medical and aid supplies to impacted regions around the world on both scheduled and charter services, the equivalent of roughly 1,000 fully loaded Boeing 777 freighters
- Freight charters are being operated to multiple countries including China, India, Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Poland, United Kingdom, the United States and Australia

[Doha Bank net profit up 5.4% to QR324 mn in Q1](#)

Qatar Tribune – 23 April 2020

- Doha Bank announced that it posted a net profit of QR324 million in the first quarter of 2020, registering an increase of 5.4 percent compared to the net profit QR307.5 million for the same period in the previous year

[Qatar's private sector exports grow 6% to QR1.95 bn in Feb](#)

Qatar Tribune – 23 April 2020

- According to the Qatar Chamber's monthly economic newsletter for April, the exports of the Qatari private sector grew 6 percent to reach QR 1.95 billion in February compared to QR 1.85 billion in January.

[Digital solutions supporting Qatar's Covid-19 strategy: OBG](#)

Qatar Tribune – 23 April 2020

- As part of Qatar's efforts to halt the spread of Covid-19, the authorities have been harnessing the power of artificial intelligence (AI) and other digital solutions, the Oxford Business Group (OBG) said in its latest report

[Qatar Airways carried over 1 million passengers home since mid-February](#)

The Peninsula – 21 April 2020

- Since mid-February Qatar Airways has carried over one million people home plus transported over 70,000 tonnes of medical equipment and aid relief, ensuring it is a reliable partner for passengers, governments, travel trade and freight companies in extremely challenging circumstances



- The COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented challenge for Qatar Airways and the aviation industry as a whole
- While the airline continues to maintain operations where possible to take people home and to transport essential supplies, overall demand for air transport has declined significantly

[IT businesses drive Mannai Corp's 'sustainable growth', says vice-chairman Sheikh Suhaim](#)

Gulf Times – 20 April 2020

- Despite the “subdued” market conditions in the retail and luxury segment, Mannai Corporation achieved “sustainable growth”, largely driven by the “strong” performance of its IT businesses, said company vice-chairman Sheikh Suhaim bin Abdulla bin Khalifa al-Thani
- He was presiding over Mannai’s Ordinary General Assembly in Doha yesterday. Sheikh Suhaim also said that as a result, the company’s board of directors “was pleased to recommend” a dividend of 20%, which translated into QR0.20 per QR1 share, the same level as the previous year

[Ahlibank 1st quarter net profit tops QR180mn](#)

Gulf Times – 20 April 2020

- Ahlibank has announced a net profit of QR180.4mn for the first three months of 2020, an increase of 1.7%, or QR2.9mn, over the same period last year
- On the results, Ahlibank chairman and managing director Sheikh Faisal bin AbdulAziz bin Jassem al-Thani, stated, “Our first quarter earnings is a testimony to the fact that our ‘Fortress Balance Sheet strategy’ is working very well. All key metrics like capital, liquidity and asset quality demonstrate our strength and prepare us very well to deal with unprecedented situation caused by the global pandemic Covid-19

[Qatar's growth to accelerate during 2022-2024: Moody's](#)

Qatar Tribune – 20 April 2020

- Qatar’s overall growth is expected to accelerate during 2022-2024 because of the country’s hosting of the FIFA World Cup in 2022 and the investment spending on the expansion of liquefied natural gas (LNG) output capacity, Moody’s Investors Service has said in its latest report
- During the course of 2023-27, Qatar Petroleum is targeting to increase its LNG production capacity to 110-126 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) from 77.5 mtpa. The LNG output increase by almost 60 percent will drive the country’s economic growth
- The Qatari authorities have also announced their plans to accelerate the Hamad Port expansion project by bringing it forward to 2020 from an initial target date of 2030. This will support non-hydrocarbon growth over the next several years



[Qatar only MENAP economy to show fiscal surplus this year and next, says IMF](#)

Gulf Times – 20 April 2020

- Qatar will be the only economy in the Middle East and North Africa including Pakistan (MENAP) region to show fiscal surplus this year and in 2021, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Qatar is expected to show fiscal surplus of 5.2% this year, which is, however, forecast to decline to 1.4% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2021
- In the case of the wider MENAP region, the fiscal balance is tilted towards deficit of 11.8% and 9.2% respectively, the IMF said in its projections

[QNB: IMF's substantial resources will help to support EMs hit hard by COVID-19](#)

Qatar Tribune – 19 April 2020

- Substantial resources of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be instrumental in providing the much-needed liquidity support to emerging markets (EMs) that are hit hard by coronavirus pandemic, Qatar National Bank (QNB) has said in its latest weekly report
- “Governments around the world are having their finances savaged by the coronavirus pandemic. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates that portfolio capital outflows from EM were about \$100 billion in the past two months, more than three times larger than during the same period of the 2008 global financial crisis,” QNB said in its weekly economic commentary

[Oxford Economics: Qatar's real GDP growth forecast to bounce back in 2021](#)

Gulf Times – 18 April 2020

- Qatar's real GDP growth has been forecast to bounce back next year with Oxford Economics saying it will grow by 5% year-on-year in 2021
- Qatar's real GDP growth forecast for 2021 will be well above the Mena's average of 3.5% and among the best in the GCC region, Oxford Economics said in its latest 'Weekly Economic Briefing'
- Qatar's current account (as a percentage of GDP) will also be in the positive territory (+2.9%) in 2021 from -2.6% this year

[QIIB launches round-the-clock corporate cash deposit cards](#)

Qatar Tribune – 16 April 2020

- Qatar International Islamic Bank (QIIB) has launched corporate cash deposit cards that allow the bank's corporate customers to make cash deposits round the clock in specific ATMs across the country



- The new card is linked to the company's account with the QIIB and allows the card holder to directly deposit cash in the ATM without the need to visit the branch

[Moody's affirms Qatar's rating at 'Aa3' with a 'stable' outlook](#)

Gulf Times – 15 April 2020

- Moody's Investor Service said, "Qatar's credit profile reflects the government's strong balance sheet, vast hydrocarbon reserves and exceptionally high per capita income"
- The stable outlook reflects that Qatar's credit metrics are likely to remain consistent with the Aa3 rating, even as oil prices remain subdued due to depressed global oil demand caused by the coronavirus pandemic. The stable outlook balances fiscal and economic risks stemming from the decline in oil prices with Qatar's very large fiscal and foreign currency reserve buffers in the form of sovereign wealth fund assets

[Inflation drops in Qatar as curbs hit recreation](#)

Gulf Times – 15 April 2020

- Qatar's restrictions on gatherings and social meetings in view of the pandemic Covid-19 had "substantially" hit recreation, whose index plunged in double-digit to overall pull down the country's consumer price index (CPI) inflation in March 2020
- Qatar's cost of living, based on CPI inflation, declined 1.4% year-on-year and 0.94% month-on-month in March 2020 said the estimates released by the Planning and Statistics Authority (PSA)

['Business as usual' for Italian companies in Qatar despite pandemic, says envoy](#)

Gulf Times – 14 April 2020

- Italian ambassador Alessandro Prunas said: "Italian companies in Qatar, across all sectors, are effectively operating and ensuring business continuity by implementing smart working arrangements and strict health protocols on work sites, in compliance with the instructions of the Qatari authorities"

[Qatar Airways helped nearly 1mn people reach home during crisis](#)

Gulf Times – 14 April 2020

- Qatar Airways has helped around 1mn people reach home during the Covid-19 pandemic, HE the Assistant Foreign Minister and Spokesperson for the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohamed AlKhater has said
- Of them, some 100,000 were citizens of the UK, 70,000 German nationals, 45,000 French citizens and thousands from other countries, she noted



[Qatar's real estate trading volume touches QR5.96 bn in Q1 2020](#)

Qatar Tribune – 14 April 2020

- The volume of real estate trading in the sales contracts registered with the Real Estate Registration Department at the Ministry of Justice during the first quarter of 2020 has reached QR5.96 billion, according to the latest data issued by the Ministry of Justice
- The data showed the registration of 945 real estate deals during the period, and compared to the data for the first quarter of 2019, the analytical real estate bulletin recorded an increase in trading volume

[QNB Group posts net profit of QR3.6 billion in first quarter](#)

Qatar Tribune – 13 April 2020

- QNB Group, the largest financial institution in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region, on Sunday announced that it posted a net profit QR3.6 billion (\$1 billion) in the first quarter of 2020, registering a marginal increase over the profitability in the same quarter last year
- The Group's total assets reached QR964 billion (\$265 billion), an increase of 9 percent from March 31, 2019
- Strong growth in loans and advances by 13 percent reaching up to QR708 billion (\$194 billion) contributed to the growth in total assets, the bank said in a statement
- "Thanks to QNB Group's robust risk management practices, the first-quarter results of QNB Group were not materially impacted by the sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. QNB Group has taken all the necessary actions to protect the well-being of its employees, customers, and shareholders"

[Centre for Indian Community hails Qatar's 'exemplary' model of fighting COVID-19](#)

The Peninsula – 12 April 2020

- The central secretariat of the Centre for Indian Community (CIC) hailed the State of Qatar's anti-COVID-19 activities as exemplary and a model for other countries
- In a statement, the CIC said Qatar has extended treatment to both nationals and expatriates without any discrimination. Along with the expert treatment systems, Qatar's support and rehabilitation programmes are excellent

[Qatar takes lead in bond issue: Gulf countries may follow suit: Oxford Economics](#)

Gulf Times – 11 April 2020

- According to Oxford Economics, Qatar became the first Gulf country to test investor appetite amid the combined shock from oil and coronavirus, issuing \$10bn in Eurobonds on April 7. The sale, split



in tranches of five, 10 and 30 years, offered “attractive premium over existing bonds and saw high demand”

- Oxford Economics said, “With over 80% of government revenues coming from hydrocarbons, the slump in oil and gas prices poses a challenge for Qatar’s public finances, with the fiscal position seen turning negative this year even as spending is reduced”

[QA emerges as lifeline for international travellers amid COVID-19: OBG](#)

Qatar Tribune – 08 April 2020

- Oxford Business Group (OBG) has said in its latest report: “With the global COVID-19 toll mounting, most flag-carrying international airlines have completely suspended operations. However, Qatar Airways (QA) has continued to maintain a relatively high volume of commercial flights, providing a vital lifeline for long-distance travellers who feared being trapped far from home as borders closed and other travel options diminished.”

[QFC: Qatar PMI falls in March, reflecting disruption from global coronavirus outbreak](#)

The Peninsula – 08 April 2020

- The Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) survey data for Qatar showed that non-energy private sector business conditions faced disruption in March as restrictions on travel and business activities were abruptly put in place as a result of the global coronavirus outbreak
- Sheikha Alanoud bint Hamad Al Thani, Managing Director Business Development, QFC Authority said: “With great uncertainty surrounding the long-term impact of the outbreak on the global economy, firms’ expectations for activity were broadly neutral in March. More positively, employment increased further and prices charged for goods and services rose at the fastest rate since January 2018”

[UN reps praise Qatar for Covid-19 measures, free med exam without discrimination](#)

Gulf Times – 06 April 2020

- United Nations (UN) representatives have praised the efforts of Qatar in combating the Covid-19 outbreak at the national level and for all the people who live in the country without discrimination by providing free medical examinations and high-quality services
- They also commended the international efforts of Qatar by sending medical shipments and aid to friendly countries, and the evacuation of people stranded in the epidemic areas, including United Nations personnel

[Private sector working in tandem with govt to combat COVID-19: QC chairman](#)

Qatar Tribune – 06 April 2020



- Qatar Chamber Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim bin Mohammed al Thani has said that Qatar Chamber, as the representative of the private sector, has undertaken a set of measures supportive of the efforts made by the government to address the economic crisis arising from the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19)
- The QC Chairman said the performance showed by the private sector and the important initiatives launched by business owners proved that the private sector is a real partner of the government in its development process, and reflected the extent of support and attention the wise leadership and the esteemed government attach to this sector

[Qatar's robust economic performance to overpower COVID-19 out-turn: Ezdan](#)

The Peninsula – 06 April 2020

- The strategic measures taken by Qatar to prop up the private sector, including the real estate industry, in light of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, will help the local economy absorb potential shocks, according to Ezdan Real Estate's monthly report
- Global rating agencies expect Qatar's economic stability will continue and they forecast the country has outstanding potentials in trouncing these challenges successfully
- The Ezdan report noted Qatar's real estate index strived to retain its flat momentum during the past month

[Qatar able to afford more fiscal support amid Covid-19 crisis: Oxford Economics](#)

Gulf Times – 05 April 2020

- Qatar is among the financially strong countries that is able to "afford more significant fiscal support" despite the slump in oil prices, Oxford Economics said in its research brief on GCC response to the Covid-19 crisis
- Qatar and Oman, it said have implemented programmes to support loans to business and liquidity in the banking sector, post coronavirus spread
- Although "budget deficits have soared" across the GCC as a result of low oil prices, most Gulf countries have significant financial assets upon which to draw, it noted

[AM Best affirms Qatar Islamic Insurance ratings](#)

Gulf Times – 05 April 2020

- AM Best, a global insurance rating agency, has affirmed Qatar Islamic Insurance's financial strength rating of B++ (Good) and the long-term issuer credit rating of "bbb+", while revising upward the outlooks to 'positive'



- The ratings reflect the risk cover provider's balance sheet strength, which AM Best categorises as very strong, as well as its strong operating performance, limited business profile and appropriate enterprise risk management (ERM)

[S&P affirms QIB's rating at 'A-/A-2' with stable outlook](#)

The Peninsula – 05 April 2020

- International credit rating agency, Standard & Poor's (S&P) has affirmed Qatar Islamic Bank's (QIB) Issuer Credit Rating at 'A-/A-2' with a Stable Outlook.
- S&P, one of the top international rating agencies in the world, cited: "Our ratings on QIB reflect our view of its robust corporate banking franchise, strong capitalization, adequate liquidity and favorable position as Qatar's largest Islamic bank. We expect QIB to continue its foray into government and government-related entity (GRE) business while protecting its robust private-sector franchise."

[Potential global economic rebound requires aggressive virus mitigation, says QNB](#)

Gulf Times – 05 April 2020

- Potential global economic rebound requires aggressive virus mitigation, QNB said and noted the Covid-19 pandemic will have a deep but rather temporary effect on the global economy
- Comprehensive fiscal and monetary support in all major markets should provide 'economic security' during the slump and set the conditions for a healthy recovery. In fact, we expect an economic rebound in Q3 and Q4, 2020. However, this requires early and aggressive actions for Covid-19 containment and mitigation globally in an orchestrated manner," QNB said

[Qatar Airways working hard to take people home to their families: CEO](#)

The Peninsula – 02 April 2020

- The Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, HE Akbar Al Baker, said: "At Qatar Airways we continue to work hard to take people home to their families, while also ensuring robust health and safety practices to limit the spread of coronavirus"
- Qatar Airways has implemented robust policies to ensure the health and safety of its passengers and employees. Cabin crew have received training on how to minimize their chances of contracting or spreading the infection, are thermally screened before the departure of flights and after their arrival, and are quarantined and tested if any colleagues or passengers on a flight shows any symptoms of infection or test positive for the virus

[Robust performance for Real Estate Price Index amid wryly market: Ezdan](#)

The Peninsula – 02 April 2020



- Real estate price index during the past week performed robustly despite the challenges facing the market, thanks to the substantial support provided by the state to all sectors to maintain growth rates at recovered levels and flourish the market boom
- With regard to the real estate activity and the volume of sales that were registered during the period from March 22-26, 2020, the Real Estate Registration Department, at the Qatar's Ministry of Justice has registered 49 property sales deals worth more than QR 251.7m, and the sale operations were distributed over 6 municipalities

[Qatar Airways, HIA say no compromise on safety of travellers, staff](#)

Qatar Tribune – 31 March 2020

- Qatar Airways (QA) and the Hamad International Airport (HIA) say they have put in place elaborate safety mechanisms to prevent the transmission of the virus because of their operations
- Many flights to COVID-19 hit cities of New York, Madrid and Barcelona have been suspended, and this was part of the measures to maintain the security and safety of employees and travellers

[Qatar FDI inflows 'generally follow' upward trend, says Societe Generale](#)

Gulf Times – 31 March 2020

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) flows into Qatar “have generally followed an upward trend” in the past several years, thanks to the “country's political stability, stable currency pegged to the dollar, high quality infrastructure and one of the lowest corporate tax rates” in the world (10%), an analysis by French multinational investment bank Societe Generale has shown

[Doha's inflation-adjusted growth seen better than world, Mena average: IIF](#)

Gulf Times – 30 March 2020

- The Institute of International Finance (IIF), the US-based economic think-tank, has revised down Qatar's real growth this year in view of the global pandemic Covid-19; but held that Doha's inflation-adjusted economic expansion will be better than the world and the Middle East and North Africa (Mena) average
- The IIF has now pegged Qatar's real gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 0.4% in 2020 against the previous estimate of 2.6% for the same year

[QCB measures to bolster Qatari banks' liquidity positions: QNB Report](#)

Qatar Tribune – 30 March 2020

- Qatar government's initiative of providing liquidity to the banks and its QR75 billion support package to the private sector will insulate Qatari banks from the ramifications of the Coronavirus pandemic to a certain extent, QNB Financial Services (QNBFS) has said in a report



- According to the report, the various measures taken by the Qatar Central Bank (QCB) could bolster the banks' liquidity positions and mitigate adverse effects on their profit and loss (P&L) statement

[QFBA launches 'Azm' to empower businesses in Qatar](#)

Qatar Tribune – 30 March 2020

- Qatar Finance and Business Academy (QFBA) launched an initiative called 'Azm' to empower businesses in times of crisis
- The initiative is aimed at training and assisting talented and promising entrepreneurs from the Qatari community to reduce the key strategic risks associated with the coronavirus on the financial sector and to facilitate the adoption of the best risk management practices by companies during the current global crisis

[IIF: GCC banks are well-positioned to absorb shocks](#)

The Peninsula – 29 March 2020

- At least nine MENA oil exporters would see a fall of an estimated \$192bn in their hydrocarbon earnings in 2020, nearly 11 percent of their combined GDP. Consequently, the cumulative current account balance would shift from a surplus of \$65bn in 2019 to a deficit of \$67bn in 2020, and the fiscal deficit would widen from 2.9 percent of GDP to 9.1 percent, the Institute of International Finance (IIF), noted in its Mena Economic update
- On Qatar, the IIF noted, the Qatar Central Bank (QCB) has reduced the lending rate by 100bps to 2.50 percent and reduced the repurchase rate (repo) by 50bps to 1.00 percent. The central bank will also provide additional liquidity to local banks and set up a mechanism to encourage banks to postpone private sector loan repayments for six months. The government announced a 3-year stimulus package in the amount of \$ 20.6bn (12.5 percent of GDP) to the private sector to mitigate the effects of the spread of the coronavirus

[QDB: 450 companies benefit from the postponement of loan payment](#)

Al Watan – 29 March 2020

- According to Khaled Abdullah Al Mana, Executive Director of Business Finance at Qatar Development Bank, there are 450 small and medium-sized companies, besides Al Furjan Markets, two projects of Gahez 1 and Gahez 2 and Qatar Business incubator companies, which benefit from the initiative to postpone the loan installments of small and medium-sized companies, which amount to 6 months

[African ambassadors commend Qatar for measures to contain Covid-19](#)

Qatar Tribune – 29 March 2020

- South African Ambassador to Qatar HE Faizel Moosa: "... I must commend Qatar's Supreme Committee for Crisis Management chaired by the Amir HH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani and Minister of Public Health HE Dr Hanan Mohammed al Kuwari, for their swift action in dealing with the spread of COVID-19. The rapid response has already assisted in flattening the curve while many



other countries are still deciding how to deal with this pandemic. This is evident as Qatar is recording a number of recoveries. I also want to echo HH Sheikha Moza's voice through her tweet a few days ago urging people to use this time to do introspection and to reconnect with families."

- Rwandan Ambassador to Qatar HE Francois Nkulikiyimfura: "The Embassy of Rwanda commends Qatar for the regularly updated information of the extent of COVID-19 in the country, and for progressively putting in place preventive and precautionary measures to curb the spread of the virus."

[S&P affirms Qatar ratings with stable outlook](#)

The Peninsula – 28 March 2020

- S&P Global Ratings affirmed its long- and short-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings on Qatar at 'AA-/A-1+'. The outlook on the long-term rating is stable

[EU Ambassadors lauds Qatar's efforts to beat Coronavirus](#)

Al Raya – 26 March 2020

- HE Lolwah bint Rashid bin Mohammed Al Khater, Assistant Foreign Minister and Spokesperson of the Supreme Committee for Crisis Management, briefed European Union ambassadors accredited to Qatar on the efforts the country is making to curb the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- The ambassadors praised the measures taken by Qatar and appreciated the efforts of the relevant authorities in the country that oversee the implementation of these measures
- Ambassador of the French Republic HE Franck Gellet and Ambassador of Denmark (non-resident) HE Franz-Michael Skjold Mellbin reiterated their thanks to Qatar for the evacuation of their countries' citizens and facilitating their safe return to their homeland

[European community leaders applaud Qatar's steps to combat coronavirus](#)

Qatar Tribune – 25 March 2020

- Mario Lozancic, Chairperson, Croatian Business Council in Qatar said "Qatar is a melting pot of different cultures and nationalities. This common enemy (COVID-19) is uniting us to stand together, across the globe and in Qatar, because only our concerted efforts can help to overcome this peril. We welcome the measures taken by the Qatari authorities and invite you all to abide to the guidelines put in front of us."
- Elvira Pradas, General Secretary, Spanish Chamber of Commerce in Qatar, said "The Chamber of Commerce of Spain in Qatar applauds the measures taken by the Qatar authorities to safeguard the security of nationals and residents in the country and fight the spread of the coronavirus

[IMF welcomes Qatar's quick response to COVID-19 pandemic](#)

The Peninsula – 25 March 2020



- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has noted, in its official blog, that Qatar is one of the countries in the region that has already introduced targeted measures to combat the social and economic impact of COVID-19

[Moody's: Qatar fiscal strength limits vulnerability from oil price shocks](#)

Qatar Tribune – 25 March 2020

- Qatar's fiscal reserves, which "significantly" exceed external debt, limit the external vulnerability of oil price shocks, caused by the coronavirus outbreak's squeeze on global oil demand and the breakdown of the Opec+ agreement, according to the global credit rating agency Moody's
- "Stronger fiscal positions, ahead of the shock, buffer the credit implications for Qatar," Moody's said in a report. "Lower oil prices to weaken credit profiles of oil-exporting sovereigns"

[QNB Report: Govt support, robust fundamentals to help Qatari stocks mitigate Covid-19, oil impact](#)

Qatar Tribune – 23 March 2020

- QNB Financial Services (QNBFS) has said in its recently released report
 - Qatar's underlying solid macro fundamentals and the recently announced QR10 billion government backstop for the stock market will help Qatari stocks mitigate the double blow of the coronavirus crisis and dramatically lower oil prices
 - While the dual headwinds of Coronavirus and oil price crash continue to dampen the regional equity market, we think Qatar's underlying solid macro fundamentals that existed before these shocks, along with its robust corporate fundamentals, should help soften the blow

[Qatar's key projects promote trade, enhance economy: Al Faisal Holding chairman](#)

Gulf Times – 23 March 2020

- Al Faisal Holding chairman Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani told Oxford Business Group (OBG), Qatar is reaping the rewards of the range of initiatives that the Qatari government had introduced to help make sectors of the local economy self-sufficient
- Major projects, such as Hamad Port, Ruwais Port, and Hamad International Airport provide additional access to the country, aiming to promote local and regional trade, as well as enhance the local economy

[Sheikha Moza expresses 'deep pride in every person' fighting virus](#)

Gulf Times – 22 March 2020

- Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser has expressed "deep pride in every person in Qatar" fighting to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) in the country.
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- “Amid this sudden coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, I wish to express my deep pride in every person in Qatar who has become a soldier in fighting this virus; from those in the crisis management committee to those in hospitals and quarantine centres, to those working diligently behind the scenes to limit its spread,” she said in a post on her Instagram page

[Qatar’s former PM calls on GCC leaders to set aside differences to face ‘more dangerous’ coronavirus](#)

Qatar Tribune – 21 March 2020

- Statements by Qatar’s former Prime Minister HE Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber al Thani, on twitter, who has called on the GCC leaders to come together around a table and devise strategies to face the economic, social and political consequences of the coronavirus pandemic in the region
 - Is it not the time for you to put aside your differences, which have hurt all of you
 - None of us can determine the time when this epidemic that is sweeping the world will be controlled. But what is certain is that there will be health, economic, political and social consequences of this pandemic for the entire world
 - Historians and scholars will talk about the period before and after the coronavirus, just as we have been saying before September 11 and after September 11
 - What I, and all the Arabs, hope is that our leaders in the Arab world, and the Gulf region in particular, can learn lessons, and understand the enormity of the great responsibilities incumbent on them and the amount of work they have to do to ease the burden of negative consequences, especially in the economic field
 - We lived through three years of siege and were able to overcome its consequences, thanks to the steadfastness of the leadership and the Qatari people, and we can continue with the same determination, but the challenges facing us all are much greater

[Al-Asmakh: real estate sector in Qatar is stable](#)

Al Watan, 21 March 2020

- Al-Asmakh Real Estate emphasized in its recent report the limited effects of the emerging corona virus on the real estate sector in Qatar in terms of market demand. Real estate, as well as recent regulations for this sector that have demonstrated a positive impact on its performance

[Doha Bank CEO: ‘Qatar economy strong enough to withstand Covid-19 impact’](#)

Qatar Tribune – 18 March 2020

- Statements by Doha Bank Group CEO R Seetharaman
 - Qatar’s economic fundamentals are very strong. The country’s reserves are huge. The central bank is sitting on virtual cash and gold. There are reasons to believe that sufficient liquidity will be provided to banks by the government if needed
 - I believe the Qatari economy is very strong to face any eventuality. The overall long-term supply chain for LNG will have recurring revenues. They are long-term signed contacts



[SC reiterates commitment to safety of Qatar 2022 projects' workers](#)

Gulf Times – 17 March 2020

- The Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) stressed its commitment to all workers in World Cup 2022 projects, and all member of society in Qatar in light of the developments related to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
- The committee stressed that all projects related to World Cup 2022 are going on schedule, and that there are contingency plans in place to deal with any developments related to the epidemic

[QBA lauds Qatar's crisis management on Covid-19](#)

Gulf Times – 17 March 2020

- HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani, QBA Chairman, said in a statement that the measures “reflect a sublime human sense, wise, and responsible behaviour by His Highness towards the people and everyone who lives in Qatar”
- The QBA board stressed that the important economic decisions would give Qatar's business environment and private sector “a huge support, and reduce the size of the economic impact wrought by the pandemic”

[Al-Rayyan Group & KPMG: Stimulus to help ward off adverse financial impact](#)

The Peninsula – 17 March 2020

- Akber Khan, Senior Director - Asset Management Group, Al Rayan Investment said
 - The broad stimulus package is equivalent to 10 percent of the country's GDP
 - Importantly, the measures seek to help small businesses with their cash flow crunch during the COVID-19 related shutdown
- Rizwan Yaseen, KPMG in Qatar, Audit Director said
 - We warmly welcome Qatar Government's economic incentive. These targeted measures will benefit small businesses and private sector's cash flow management in this unprecedented situation
 - Taking decisive measures like this one is key to ensuring a safe and stable environment, so we praise Qatar's leadership for their swift efforts to support business community
 - Qatar's banking sector has sufficient liquidity and is adequately capitalised. “This stimulus package is the equivalent of an economic flu shot to help ward off the adverse financial impact of coronavirus”

[QF CEO: Qatar will come back stronger from COVID-19 challenge](#)

The Peninsula – 16 March 2020



- Qatar Foundation’s recent statements and messages by H.E Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani (pictured), Vice-Chairperson and CEO, QF
 - “Qatar’s proven resilience and ability to overcome challenges will see it emerge “even stronger” from the global coronavirus crisis”
 - Steps such as these can ultimately be more than a precautionary response to a health crisis, by helping to shape innovative working practices that continue into the future
 - This is our opportunity to redesign the future workplace... With the right mindset, we can increase productivity and reinvent the way we work in the long run

[Qatar makes comprehensive leap in industrial sector, says MoCI official](#)

Gulf Times – 16 March 2020

- Commenting on the commodity supply with the spread of Coronavirus, Mohamed Hassan al-Malki, Assistant Undersecretary for Industry Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry stressed that the situation is very reassuring and not a cause for concern at all
- The State has deep experience in dealing crises, and the situation is very normal as the Ministry has a forward-looking vision and strategic plans to deal with any emergency

[QC Chairman: Private sector dealing with COVID-19 outbreak with great responsibility](#)

The Peninsula – 16 March 2020

- Qatar Chamber (QC) Chairman Sheikh Khalifa bin Jassim bin Mohammed Al Thani: praised the measures made by some entities in the country such as banks that postponed the due payments or reduced commissions on loans, noting that many semi-governmental institutions exempted various commercial stores and eateries from rental values

[‘Made in Qatar’ makes its impact during coronavirus crisis](#)

Gulf Times – 14 March 2020

- Blockade has prepared Qatar to combat the novel coronavirus, as ‘Made in Qatar’ products meet rising demands, said Professor Alexis Antoniadis, Associate Professor and Director of International Economics at Georgetown University in Qatar
- With Qatar becoming increasingly self-reliant in response to the blockade, it now manufactures many products that it previously didn’t
- In more ways than one, the blockade has been a blessing in disguise... In less than three years since the launch of the Gulf crisis, the nation’s manufacturing sector has boomed

[Qatar to participate in SPIEF 2021 as a guest country](#)

RosCongress – 13 March 2020



- H.E. Fahad bin Mohammed Al-Attiyah, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar to the Russian Federation, expressed Qatar’s solidarity with the Russian Federation amidst the spread of coronavirus and that Qatar looks forward to being the guest country at SPIEF 2021
- “All our agreements remain in effect, and we are excited about the opportunity to make an even greater contribution to the development of the event programme”

[QIIB: The Qatari economy is strong and ready for all possibilities](#)

Al Sharq – 12 March 2020

- QIIB Chief Executive Officer Dr Abdulbasit Ahmad al-Shaibei:
 - Qatar’s banking sector remains strong despite the low oil prices, due to the strength of its fundamentals, in terms of capital efficiency and liquidity, in addition to continuing to implement major infrastructure-related projects, which are an essential tributary for all sectors in general and the banking sector in particular
 - The Central Bank’s decision to cut the interest rate stimulates the economy and encourages investment and work

[Qatar's Foreign Minister: Corona will not affect our markets on the long term](#)

CNN Arabic – 01 March 2020

- H.E. Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, confirmed in a TV interview with CNN Arabic that despite the expected economic and financial impact that the markets will witness, the effect will not persist on the long-term

PART 3: BUSINESS NEWS/INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT ECONOMY

[QC recruitment platform draws over 2,300 firms](#)

Qatar Tribune – 27 July 2020

- More than 2,300 companies in Qatar have registered with the Qatar Chamber’s (QC) online recruitment platform that seeks to help employees who have lost jobs and private-sector firms looking for skilled hands to find each other

[al khaliji launches app to improve investor relations](#)

Qatar Tribune – 26 July 2020

- Khalij Commercial Bank (al khaliji) on Saturday announced that it has introduced an ‘Investor Relations’ application. This useful tool provides convenient, real time share performance and related information for investors



[Milaha, Microsoft expand partnership to transform supply chain industry](#)

The Peninsula – 26 July 2020

- Milaha, Qatar’s leading force in Maritime & Logistics, has partnered with Microsoft to transform its workplace into a modern, secure, and virtual environment as part of the company’s dedicated drive to ensure business continuity and services, whilst simultaneously expanding Qatar’s supply chain connectivity

[Qatar’s first large-scale solar project achieves financial closure](#)

Qatar Tribune – 23 July 2020

- Qatar’s first large-scale solar power project in Al Kharsaah has reached “financial close”, the Qatar General Electricity and Water Corporation (Kahramaa) announced
- The project company, Siraj-1 Company, has obtained the senior loans, which had been provided by Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and Mizuho Corporate Bank to finance the plant
- After the project’s financial close, the Levelized Electricity Cost (LEC) was set at 5.281 dirham (1.449 US cents) per KW/h, which is the lowest price in the world for these types of projects

[Fitco launches new initiative for entrepreneurs and small investors](#)

The Peninsula – 22 July 2020

- Fitco Holding company has launched “Own Your Project” initiative for entrepreneurs and small investors, with guaranteed profitability through the launch of a series of specialised shops that sell detergents and its various tools

[Qatar Investment Authority takes stake in vaccine-maker CureVac](#)

The Peninsula – 21 July 2020

- German biotech company CureVac said Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) has taken an undisclosed stake in the firm as part of a \$126 million financing round, the latest high-profile investor to come onboard ahead of a potential stock market listing

[QNBFS to start liquidity provision service for QIB on July 23](#)

Gulf Times – 21 July 2020

- QNB Financial Services (QNBFS), a financial brokerage subsidiary of QNB, will start liquidity provision activity for Qatar Islamic bank (QIB) from Thursday (July 23). This has been made possible after QNBFS entered into a liquidity provision agreement with QIB, a Qatar Stock Exchange communique said



[All QIB credit cards are now contactless to support Tap & Pay](#)

Qatar Tribune – 20 July 2020

- Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has launched its new contactless credit cards. The contactless payment solution allows QIB credit cardholders to safely and conveniently, tap and pay, using their credit card at any contactless-enabled point of sale (POS) machine
- Contactless cardholders can conveniently tap and pay for transactions under QR300 without the need for a PIN. For purchases of over QR300, customers can simply tap their card and enter their PIN to confirm the transaction

[Qatar Airways to expand network to over 70 destinations](#)

The Peninsula – 16 July 2020

- Qatar Airways has become the first international airline to resume flights to the Maldives, with the first daily service touching down at Velana International Airport, marked with a water cannon salute
- With the airline's network never falling below 30 destinations throughout this crisis, Qatar Airways continues to lead the recovery of international air travel. By the end of July, the airline's network will expand to over 450 weekly flights to more than 70 destinations with the addition of flights to several destinations, including Addis Ababa, Djibouti, Istanbul, Antalya, Bodrum and Helsinki

[CB, Euromoney to hold session on Qatar's economy](#)

Qatar Tribune – 12 July 2020

- In a first-of-its-kind initiative, Commercial Bank (CB) has joined hands with Euromoney Livestream to host 'Qatar: Navigating the new normal' on July 15. During the online Euromoney Livestream, key speakers from the Commercial Bank, economists, and investors will share their perspectives on the future of banking and finance in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic

[MoTC, PwC Qatar discuss developments in tax landscape](#)

The Peninsula – 12 July 2020

- PwC Qatar, in collaboration with the Ministry of Transport and Communications (MoTC), held a webinar on the "Digital Tax Function: An SME Perspective", under MOTC's Digital Transformation of Small & Medium Business Enterprises program, supporting the development of Qatar's knowledge-based economy by developing a sustainable and innovative ICT ecosystem

[QIB launches new mobile app for its corporate customers](#)

Gulf Times – 12 July 2020

- Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has launched a new mobile application, the QIB Corporate App, which is specifically designed to address the financial requirements of its corporate and small- and medium-enterprises customers



- This comes as part of QIB's ongoing efforts to provide innovative digital solutions to empower its customers, the bank has said in a statement

[QIB thanks COVID-19 frontline workers with special Certificates of Deposit](#)

The Peninsula – 5 July 2020

- Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has extended its gesture of goodwill and appreciation to the frontline workers combating COVID-19 with the introduction of special Certificates of Deposit
- The new Certificates of Deposit are offered exclusively to the frontline medical and police workforces of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Public Health, Hamad Medical Corporation, Primary Health Care Corporation, Sidra Medical and Research Center, Ahli Hospital, American Hospital Doha and volunteers

[QIIB partners with QA's privilege club for summer financing offer](#)

Qatar Tribune – 5 July 2020

- QIIB has announced the launch of a competitive offer in partnership with Qatar Airways' (QA) loyalty programme 'Privilege Club' starting July 5 to August 27, 2020
- According to the bank, customers will benefit from a competitive annual profit rate of 2.13 percent and 10,000 bonus Qmiles by Qatar Airways for every QR100,000 worth of financing taken with the 'Financing and Liabilities Transfer Offer'

[GTA launches new tax portal; companies required to register on 'Dhareeba'](#)

Gulf Times – 1 July 2020

- The General Tax Authority (GTA) has launched the first phase of the new online tax paying system called, "Dhareeba". All companies are required to register on the new portal starting July 1 and complete the registration process in a period of 90 days. Taxpayers who register on the portal before September 30 will be exempted from the existing penalties related to previous registration and issuance of tax card

[QIIB launches salary card for workers in Qatar](#)

Qatar Tribune – 30 June 2020

- Within the framework of its integrated corporate solutions, QIIB has announced the launch of salary card that allows companies to pay workers' salaries in an easy and convenient manner, in compliance with the requirements of the Wages Protection System
- As a first in Qatar, this salary card can be issued to workers prior to their arrival in Doha, upon the issue of their visa number



[Commercial Bank launches 'CB PAY' for merchants in Qatar's first such digital product](#)

Gulf Times - 30 June 2020

- Commercial Bank has launched the first-ever digital product of its kind in the Qatari market, "CB PAY for Merchants", which gives the "ability for retailers to trade, and receive payments using only a mobile phone"

[QFTH open to include Islamic fintechs, SMEs in first wave of IAP](#)

Gulf Times - 29 June 2020

- Qatar Fintech Hub (QFTH), co-founded by Qatar Development Bank (QDB), is open to include fintechs specialising in Islamic finance, regulatory framework and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) under the first wave of its Fintech Incubator and Accelerator programmes (IAP), according to its top official
- "The focus of Wave 1 is on payments technology, but we are open to other areas too," QDB chief executive Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa said recently at a webinar, organised by the US Qatar Business Council (USQBC), in association with Qatar Embassy in the US and Fintex

[TOTAL, QSTP extend partnership agreement for another decade](#)

Qatar Tribune – 24 June 2020

- Qatar Science and Technology Park (QSTP), a part of Qatar Foundation Research, Development, and Innovation has signed an extension to their existing agreement with Total, allowing Total Research Center-Qatar (TRC-Q) to continue their research and development operations in QSTP Park and Free Zone for another ten years

[Manateq offers incentives for investors in Al Khor, Al Karaana zones](#)

The Peninsula – 23 June 2020

- The Economic Zones Company Qatar (Manateq) has announced attractive incentives and benefits for businesses and potential investors in its Al Khor and Al Karaana industrial zones. The company is offering irresistible investment opportunities
- With the new offer, the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can now open yards at very affordable rents as low as QR10 per square metres annually. Al Khor and Al Karaana are new industrial complexes being developed and overseen by Manateq as part of Qatar's long-term strategy to achieve industrial diversification

[Meeza announces launch of its 4th Data Centre in Doha](#)

The Peninsula – 22 June 2020



- MEEZA, Qatar's pioneering Data Centre business, revealed the launch of its 4th state-of-the-art Data Centre in Doha, as the latest addition to its nationwide plans, to support Qatar's digital transformation and smart future
- The new data centre, M-VAULT 4, is part of MEEZA's accelerated efforts to implement Qatar's digital transformation agenda toward a knowledge-based economy, in line with the Qatar National Vision 2030

[QFTH to collaborate with top global fintech firms](#)

The Peninsula – 13 June 2020

- The Qatar FinTech Hub (QFTH), co-founded by Qatar Development Bank (QDB), is looking to attract Global companies in fintech industry to Qatar
-
- Participating in a webinar hosted jointly by Qatar Financial Centre (QFC), Agoria Financial Services Technology Club and QFTH, Georges Fouad Salem, Business Intelligence Manager, QDB said that QFTH is currently engaged with some of the top global fintech hubs to enable its FinTech strategy before creating a world-class interconnected market in Qatar

[Qatar Petroleum announces integration of Muntajat into QP](#)

The Peninsula – 11 June 2020

- As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen its global competitive position in the downstream sector, Qatar Petroleum announces its decision to integrate Qatar Chemical and Petrochemical Marketing and Distribution Company (Muntajat) into QP
- The integration will involve leveraging a combined set of human, technical, commercial, and financial capabilities, as well as customer relationships into the QP organization with the aim of being completed within the next few months, which will enable QP to continue expanding its global reach, and to remain the partner of choice providing superior high quality products and excellence in customer service

[Mall of Qatar defers rent payments for another month](#)

The Peninsula – 07 June 2020

- As part of its continuous support to the tenants in light of COVID-19, Mall of Qatar exempted mall tenants from rental costs for an additional month of June, following the exemption for three months from March until May 2020

[Qatar obtains approval to establish barcode office for national products](#)

Gulf Times – 07 June 2020

- Qatar has obtained, by unanimous vote, the approval of the General Assembly of GS1 to establish a barcode office for Qatari products, as a result of the joint efforts of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Qatar Development Bank (QDB)



- In a statement, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said that Qatar has obtained the code 630 for locally-made products that can be exported or even traded within the country

[QP signs largest LNG shipbuilding agreements in history](#)

Gulf Times – 02 June 2020

- Qatar Petroleum (QP) signed the "largest LNG shipbuilding agreements in history" Monday, aimed at securing more than 100 ships valued in excess of QR70bn to cater to its LNG growth plans
- The three agreements reserve LNG ship construction capacity in South Korea to be utilised for QP's future LNG carrier fleet requirements, including those for the ongoing expansion projects in the North Field and in the US

[Vodafone Qatar in deal with Microsoft on collaborative solutions for remote business teams](#)

Gulf Times – 01 June 2020

- Vodafone Qatar has partnered with Microsoft Qatar to promote digital services and support businesses of all sizes to work remotely
- The partnership includes a set of workplace solutions to work and collaborate remotely through Microsoft 365, including Microsoft Teams. Vodafone Qatar is currently offering the first six-months free of charge on selected packages to all businesses

[QIB's Family Shield Takaful policy available on mobile app](#)

Qatar Tribune – 20 May 2020

- Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) on Tuesday announced that customers can now instantly purchase the Family Shield Takaful product in a few simple steps through QIB's Mobile App
- Family Shield Takaful policy is designed to provide both nationals and residents financial security during unforeseen circumstances

[Doha Bank MC Debit card holders to get 5% cashback on online spending](#)

Qatar Tribune – 18 May 2020

- In continuation of its constant efforts to cater to the various needs of its customers, Doha Bank has recently announced its E-Commerce MasterCard (MC) Debit cards' campaign
- The promotion which takes place from May 7 to July 31, rewards Doha Bank customers with 5 percent cash back upon using their MasterCard Debit cards for online purchases
- The step comes in synch with the Qatari government directives to curb the spread of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advising people to perform financial transactions using cashless and contactless payment methods



[Qatar Airways will give away 100,000 free tickets to frontline healthcare professionals](#)

Gulf Times – 11 May 2020

- Qatar Airways will give away 100,000 free tickets to frontline healthcare professionals to “say thank you for their heroic work looking after people” during the current Covid-19 pandemic
- By maintaining 24x7 operations in recent months, including the provision of over 100 charter flights, Qatar Airways’ mission to repatriate over 1mn people has received widespread praise and thanks from passengers and governments as the foremost airline taking people home
- Given the airline’s work at the frontline of global efforts to repatriate stranded passengers, it now seeks to recognise and reward the world’s frontline healthcare workers

[Ooredoo, Visa sign MoU for strategic partnership for Qatar](#)

Gulf Times – 09 May 2020

- Ooredoo and Visa have announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at establishing a long-term strategic partnership resulting in an improved and more seamless payment experience for Visa cardholders and Ooredoo customers in Qatar
- As part of this MoU, Ooredoo and Visa will work to offer innovative solutions to consumers in Qatar, including virtual prepaid cards – reloadable cards that are safe, reliable and accepted at Visa’s more than 53mn merchant locations worldwide; Visa’s QR-based ‘Scan to Pay’ solution for person-to-merchant transactions; and Visa Direct, which enables cardholders and businesses to push funds disbursements and remittances to cards rapidly, conveniently, and cost-effectively across borders
- The MoU will also see the partners collaborate on awareness initiatives and marketing campaigns to support the introduction of the domestic and cross-border payment solutions to Qatar

[QNB announces completion of 5-year \\$1 bn bond issuance](#)

Qatar Tribune – 06 May 2020

- QNB Group announced the successful completion of a five-year bond issuance under its Medium-Term Note (EMTN) programme and listed on the London Stock Exchange
- Under this Programme, a \$1 billion tranche was issued on May 5, 2020. The issuance was part of QNB Group’s ongoing strategy to ensure diversification of funding in terms of type, tenor and geography

[Qatar Petroleum enters into three exploration blocks in Mexico](#)

Gulf Times – 06 May 2020

- Qatar Petroleum entered into three “farm-in agreements” to acquire about 30% of Total’s participating interest in blocks 15, 33 and 34 located in the Campeche basin, offshore Mexico



- On the occasion, HE the Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad bin Sherida al-Kaabi, also president and CEO of QP said, “We are pleased to sign these agreements, which further expand Qatar Petroleum’s footprint in Mexico, and demonstrate our commitment to achieving our international growth strategy, with Latin America as a core area in our international portfolio”

[Barzan Holdings secures contracts for its ventilator in many countries](#)

Gulf Times – 03 May 2020

- Barzan Holdings has manufactured a distinguished ventilator that recently won the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and secured a good number of contracts from different countries, Ahmed Rashid al-Misfiri, director of Investment at Barzan Holdings, has told Qatar TV
- The new ventilator is 100% locally manufactured and created in strategic co-operation with American company Wilcox. Barzan Holdings owns the full intellectual rights to the new ventilator

[QDB selects five competition winners to develop innovative solutions to tackle coronavirus](#)

Gulf Times – 27 April 2020

- Qatar Development Bank (QDB) announced the names of five teams who won an initiative launched by the bank to develop pioneering ideas to contribute to reducing the repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic (Covid-19)
- To accomplish this initiative, QDB launched an electronic platform that gives anyone with innovative ideas the opportunity to develop their entrepreneurial ideas that will help in dealing with various problems and challenges posed by the spread of Coronavirus, in partnership with a number of ministries, academia, private sector institutions, and business incubator

[QIB unveils ‘new innovative, useful features’ on mobile app](#)

Gulf Times – 27 April 2020

- QIB has released several “new innovative, useful features” on its mobile app that enable more remote transactions and simplify the overall banking experience
- Through the updated QIB mobile app, customers can now request for a temporary credit limit increase, in real time, on all their Charge cards, including Qatar Airways co-branded cards Based on their eligibility, the limit will be granted on real time basis and enable the customers to make transactions immediately
- The limit increase is offered for 30 days from the date of applying and the payment will be due in the following statement cycle

[Al khaliji reports net profit of QR177m for first quarter](#)

The Peninsula – 24 April 2020

- Al Khalij Commercial Bank (al khaliji) reported a net profit of QR177m for the first quarter of this year (Q1, 2020) witnessing a marginal increase against QR176m for the same period last year



- The bank's net operating income increased by 9 percent to QR315m for the first three months of this year compared to QR289m during the same period in 2019

[Masraf Al Rayan posts QR547m net profit for Q1, 2020](#)

The Peninsula – 24 April 2020

- Masraf Al Rayan yesterday announced its financial results reporting a net profit of QR547m for the first quarter of this year (Q1, 2020), registering a marginal increase of 0.5 per cent compared to the same period last year

[QP in QR11bn plus LNG carrier pact with China](#)

Gulf Times – 22 April 2020

- Qatar Petroleum has entered into an agreement to reserve LNG ship construction capacity in China to be utilised for QP's future LNG carrier fleet requirements, including those of its ongoing North Field expansion projects
- The agreement was entered into between Qatar Petroleum (QP) and Hudong-Zhonghua Shipbuilding Group Company (Hudong), a wholly owned subsidiary of China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC)
- Pursuant to the agreement, a significant portion of Hudong's LNG ship construction capacity will be reserved for Qatar Petroleum through the year 2027

[CB posts net profit of QR402 mn in Q1](#)

Qatar Tribune – 22 April 2020

- The Commercial Bank (CB) on Tuesday announced that it posted a net profit of QR402 million in the first quarter of 2020 as compared to QR440 million for the same period in the previous year
- The Group's operating profit increased 17.5 percent to QR730 million in the first quarter of 2020, compared to QR622 million achieved in the same period in 2019

[First Finance Company postpones payment installments for registered SMEs](#)

The Peninsula – 20 April 2020

- First Finance Company (FFC), a subsidiary of Barwa Bank Group, announced that it has postponed payment installments for registered small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs)
- FFC's decision to postpone finance installments and documentary credits dues of its SME customers without additional fees or profits goes into effect starting March 16, 2020 for a period of 6 months

[Google Cloud joins CRA's 'remote' plan](#)

Gulf Times – 20 April 2020



- Google Cloud has joined the remote working initiative that was launched by the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) at end of March 2020, in co-operation with key players in Qatar's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector
- The CRA initiative is taking a set of measures and providing offers and packages for technology services to help people in Qatar work remotely from home easily and securely during the precautionary measures taken to limit the spread of Covid-19

[QFC announces new measures to support its firms](#)

Gulf Times – 14 April 2020

- Qatar Financial Centre (QFC) has announced new support measures, including the extension of deadline to file tax without incurring any late filing penalties, to offer relief to more than 900 firms already registered on its platform
- QFC said it would provide deadline extensions for tax filings due to the ongoing pandemic without incurring any late filing penalties, in addition to reducing the rate of the charge due on the late payment of tax (late payment charge) to 0% from March 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020
- The updated rates would ensure that any QFC firm that extends their filing due date would not suffer any late payment charges until August 31, 2020, should their tax due also be paid after the payment due date

[HSBC's Qatar outreach to aid Covid-19 relief effort](#)

Gulf Times – 14 April 2020

- HSBC will immediately begin making contributions to a range of projects in Qatar, among other regional countries to help an estimated 80,000 underprivileged individuals and families impacted by Covid-19
- The disbursements, organised in close co-operation with HSBC's partner charities around the region, will also help hospital workers in the frontline fight against the virus

[Commercial Bank launches 'CB Household Worker PayCard'](#)

The Peninsula – 13 April 2020

- Commercial Bank has launched "CB Household Worker PayCard", the country's first digital solution offered to manage household workers' salaries and remittance. This innovative new service immediately follows after the launch of CB Smart Payroll for company workers payments and remittance
- "CB Household Worker PayCard" is a digital solution offered to manage household workers' salaries and remittances. It can be applied for digitally using Commercial Bank's Mobile Banking App



[Cisco joins CRA initiative to make remote work easier and secure during COVID-19](#)

Qatar Tribune – 13 April 2020

- Multinational technology conglomerate Cisco has joined hands with Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA) to help people in Qatar work remotely from their homes easily and securely as part of the precautionary measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19)
- The CRA initiative was launched at the end of last month, in cooperation with key players in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector in Qatar, by taking a set of measures and providing offers and packages to enable the ‘work from home’ system
- As part of the cooperation, Cisco will support businesses in Qatar by offering them free licences up to 90 days for collaboration tools and security solutions to work remotely from homes easily and securely, especially with the increase in the number of remote workers

[QDB launches FinTech incubator, accelerator to support firms](#)

Qatar Tribune – 13 April 2020

- Qatar Development Bank (QDB) announced the launch of FinTech incubator and accelerator programmes called ‘The Programs’
- The Programs will cater to local and global FinTech entrepreneurs that are looking for a Launchpad and a hub to accelerate their growth
- Run by QDB in collaboration with EY and Medici, the programmes will support the growth of local and international FinTechs by providing a team of international mentors from more than 10 countries, financial and regulatory support, registration support and much more

[QIB launches Deposit Only Card for corporate, SME customers](#)

The Peninsula – 12 April 2020

- Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) has launched a new Corporate Deposit Only Card as part of its continuous efforts to encourage customers to use digital channels to complete all their banking transactions
- This card allows large corporations, as well as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to deposit cash or cheques in their accounts at any time through QIB’s self-service Cash & Cheque Deposit Machines (CDMs) available across the country at 40 different locations

[Commercial Bank launches ‘CB SMART Payroll’ service](#)

The Peninsula – 12 April 2020

- Commercial Bank, Qatar’s first private bank, is once again pioneering the market with ‘CB SMART Payroll’ service, built for companies, to assist their employees in digitally sending funds overseas



- This new service is online, efficient and by following a few simple steps ensures that all workers can access digital remittances

[QICDRC holds first remote hearing online](#)

Qatar Tribune – 09 April 2020

- The Qatar International Court and Dispute Resolution Centre (QICDRC) held its first fully remote hearing on April 7 and 8, with judges, court officials and lawyers appearing from different locations across four different countries to ensure that access to justice is maintained during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

[Qatar Airways Cargo transported over 50,000 tonnes of medical supplies and aid in March](#)

The Peninsula – 09 April 2020

- Qatar Airways Cargo has increased services around the world, operating freighters and freight-only passenger aircraft to ensure the continuity of global trade and transportation of essential supplies to where they are needed during this critical time
- In the past month, the airline has transported over 50,000 tonnes of medical and aid supplies to impacted regions around the globe. This equates to roughly 500 fully loaded Boeing 777 freighters

[QIB implements National Guarantee Programme to support private firms](#)

Qatar Tribune – 08 April 2020

- Qatar Islamic Bank (QIB) announced the implementation of National Guarantee Programme at the bank to support economic and financial sectors in Qatar
- QIB Group CEO Bassel Gamal said, “At QIB, we have been proactive and fully supportive of the measures implemented by the government, QCB and QDB to help local businesses impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Maintaining business continuity and keeping the local economy afloat is a commitment that both the government and QIB have undertaken.”

[QFZA, QSTP sign MoU to back R&D, entrepreneurship](#)

Gulf Times – 07 April 2020

- Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZA) and Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to oversee, regulate, and support research development and entrepreneurship efforts to foster the establishment of a sustainable knowledge-based economy in Qatar

[QDB initiative to develop solutions to tackle virus](#)

Gulf Times – 05 April 2020



- Qatar Development Bank (QDB) has announced the launch of an initiative to develop entrepreneurial ideas to contribute to reducing the repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic (Covid 19)
- The bank stated that the initiative will be accomplished by launching (hackathon) (an event in which computer programmers and others meet to develop software) represents an electronic platform that opens for three days to give owners of innovative ideas the opportunity to develop their entrepreneurial ideas that will help to deal with various problems and challenges that It is thrown by the spread of the new corona pandemic

[QDB launches 'National Guarantee' to help COVID-19 hit private companies](#)

The Peninsula – 05 April 2020

- Qatar Development Bank (QDB) launched the National Guarantee Program to provide guarantees for local banks to grant interest-free loans to affected companies, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and Qatar Central Bank (QCB) and all banks operating in the country, in response to the implications of the spread of the Covid-19
- The QDB stated that companies wishing to benefit from the program are required to be fully owned by the private sector, and to be registered in the wage protection system in force in the State of Qatar

[PHCC launches home delivery of medicines](#)

Gulf Times – 04 April 2020

- The Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), in partnership with Qatar Post, has started implementing the Medication Refill Home Delivery service for patients through WhatsApp numbers allocated to each health centre
- This comes as part of the measures put in place to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (Covid-19)

[Qatari Businessmen Association mulls fund to support troubled companies amid COVID-19 pandemic](#)

The Peninsula – 02 April 2020

- The Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA) is planning to establish a 'business fund' to provide technical and financial support for troubled companies in the private sector which are facing the economic impact of COVID-19 in Qatar

[QC provides MoPH with 24 business initiatives to combat COVID-19](#)

Qatar Tribune – 02 April 2020

- The Qatar Chamber announced that it has provided the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) with 24 business initiatives received by the chamber through its 'Takatuf Initiative' to support the ministry's efforts in containing the spread of coronavirus in the country



- The chamber revealed that among these initiatives received by the business owners are the setting up of field hospitals, assistance in providing medical personnel when necessary, providing drivers and support services, equipment, air conditioners, and generators, in addition to providing and delivering food, providing masks, medical gloves

[Barwa Bank postpones SME finance installments & documentary credits dues](#)

The Peninsula – 01 April 2020

- Barwa Bank has announced that it is postponing the finance installments and documentary credits dues for its small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) customers

[4-month rent exemption granted to shops in traditional markets](#)

Gulf Times – 01 April 2020

- The Private Engineering Office announced that all shops in its traditional markets will be exempted from rents for a period of four months starting from April 1, 2020
- The old markets include Souq Waqif, Al Wakrah Souq, Old Al Khor Souq and Najada Souq as well as the shops around Souq Waqif such as Faleh Souq, Asiri Souq, Al Deera Souq, City Centre Souq, Nasser bin Saif Souq, in addition to other souqs under the supervision of the Private Engineering Office

[GWC provides free transportation to SMEs importing medical supplies](#)

Qatar Tribune – 01 April 2020

- Gulf Warehousing Company (GWC), the leading logistics provider in Qatar, announced that it will provide free customs clearance and transportation services to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are involved in importing critical medical supplies for the fight against COVID-19 for a period of three months starting from April 1

[Banks in Qatar hike purchase limit for contactless cards](#)

The Peninsula – 31 March 2020

- Banks in Qatar have increased the purchase limit of contactless debit and credit cards by 200 percent
- Earlier, customers were allowed to do purchases up to QR100, but now this limit has been increased to QR300
- Commercial Bank and QNB have already hiked this limit while other banks are also expected to follow suit
- This initiative by banks will play an important role in limiting the spread of COVID-19 as customers are not required to enter the Personal Identification Number (PIN) while doing a transaction with these cards



[Qatar Airways resumes belly-hold cargo operations to China](#)

Qatar Tribune – 31 March 2020

- Qatar Airways Cargo resumed scheduled belly-hold cargo operations to China with the utilisation of wide-body and passenger-configured aircraft from March 30, 2020
- The additional cargo capacity is being added to the carrier's existing freighter service amid increased demand for the shipment of immediate goods in and out of the region.

[QIB launches mPay digital wallet on its mobile app](#)

Gulf Times – 29 March 2020

- QIB is one of the first banks in Qatar to go live with the 'mPay' digital wallet initiative on its mobile app
- The new payment method supports the efforts led by the Qatar Central Bank to achieve a safe, secure and cashless economy, ahead of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and beyond

[Qatar Airways to extend loyalty programme members' ties status](#)

Gulf Times – 29 March 2020

- Qatar Airways' loyalty programme, Privilege Club said it will extend or reinstate loyal members' tier status for 12 months, for memberships due to expire before January 31, 2021
- Qatar Airways' Privilege Club recently announced a tier extension offer of up to six months to its members, but has doubled this to one year in recognition that its members continue to be impacted by travel restrictions and flight reductions resulting from the novel coronavirus (Covid-19)

[Doha Bank donates QR2 mn to support quarantined workers in Industrial Area](#)

The Peninsula – 26 March 2020

- Doha Bank, one of the largest private commercial banks in Qatar, has recently contributed QR2 million in donations to the Qatar Charity's project to provide quarantined migrant workers in the Industrial Area with food and medical supplies

[Doha Bank donates 1,000 laptops to support e-learning project](#)

Qatar Tribune – 25 March 2020

- Doha Bank has donated 1,000 laptops to support the e-learning initiative launched by Qatar Charity (QC) as part of its 'Our Good for Our People' campaign
- The step aims to help students in need to resume their education online in light of the Qatar's government's recent decision to suspend public and private schools and universities until further notice



[QFZA offers access to QR11bn govt-backed fund to investors](#)

The Peninsula – 24 March 2020

- Qatar Free Zones Authority (QFZA) has announced to offer a “one-stop-shop” solution to investors and businesses which are looking for long-term growth and global expansion. QFZA, the independent authority that oversee and regulate world-class free zones in Qatar, is offering outstanding opportunities and benefits for such businesses, which include potential access to a \$3bn (nearly QR11bn) government-backed investment fund
- The other attractive incentives and benefits QFZA is offering include tax exemptions or corporate tax holidays for up to 20 years, skilled foreign workforce, 100 percent ownership of business with full capital repatriation, QFZA tweeted yesterday

[Qatar Chamber launches 'Takatuf Initiative' to support efforts of preventing spread of COVID-19](#)

The Peninsula – 24 March 2020

- Qatar Chamber has launched 'Takatuf Initiative' with a view to urging its members, public and private joint-stock companies and businessmen to support the country's efforts to limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- The initiative aims to mitigate the economic impacts of the precautionary measures taken by the country to protect citizens and residents from COVID-19 through providing in-kind support as a contribution to provide governmental needs required for these measures

[Bedaya Center launches initiative to support local entrepreneurs](#)

Qatar Tribune – 24 March 2020

- Bedaya Center for Entrepreneurship and Career Development (Bedaya Center), a joint initiative by Qatar Development Bank and Silatech, has launched an innovative initiative, #Sustainyourbusiness
- The initiative aims to support entrepreneurs and businesses so that they can continue work by offering their products to all members of society through the delivery platforms 'Rafeeq' and 'Snoonu'

[MME launches five new online services](#)

Qatar Tribune – 24 March 2020

- The Ministry of Municipality and Environment on Monday unveiled five new online services, including a request for a building maintenance licence, a request for a building demolition licence and a request for a building licence, a hedge licence and a property development statement

[Doha Festival City exempts mall tenants from three-month rent](#)

Qatar Tribune – 24 March 2020



- Doha Festival City announced that it will be offering rent relief up to three months to eligible tenants for the months of April, May, and June

[QSTP exempts tenants from rent, service charges](#)

Gulf Times – 24 March 2020

- Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP), a member of Qatar Foundation, has announced that it is exempting all retail, startup and SME tenants from rent and service charges for the next six months, until September

[GWC announces 3-month rent waiver](#)

Qatar Tribune – 23 March 2020

- Gulf Warehousing Company (GWC), the leading logistics provider in Qatar and the developer and operator of GWC Bu Sulba Warehousing Park, has announced that retail outlets tenants in the Park will be exempted from rent for a period of three months starting from March 16, 2020
- In addition, all companies falling under the small and medium enterprises category will receive support in the form of 15 percent rent reduction for a period of six months

[QPAY cuts POS prices by 50% to help Qatari SMEs fight CoVid-19](#)

Gulf Times – 22 March 2020

- QPAY International, a member of the NEXXO Network, the leading financial technology (Fintech) company in Qatar servicing over 15,000 Qatari Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and more than 250,000 low wage workers; is taking immediate action and slashing its Point Of Sale (POS) prices by 50% to help Qatari SMEs accept electronic payments instead of contaminated cash; as cash can cause the spread of Corona Virus. QPAY's action is an instantaneous response to the recent directives by his Excellency Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani our beloved Emir of Qatar

[Qatar Airways announces to transport all medical aids free of charge to Iran](#)

The Peninsula – 22 March 2020

- H E Akbar Al Baker, Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive and Secretary-General of QNTC, has announced to offer free of charge services to all the people and government who are willing to supply medical aid and medical equipment to the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is one of the worst affected coronavirus (COVID-19) countries in the world after China and Italy

[MoCI exempts SMEs in industrial areas from rents](#)

Qatar Tribune – 22 March 2020

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has announced that SMEs in industrial areas including the Mesaieed industrial area will be exempted from rents for six months. These exemptions start from March 15, 2020, the ministry said in a statement



[General Tax Authority announces extension on tax returns by two months](#)

The Peninsula – 19 March 2020

- The General Tax Authority (GTA) has announced extending the period for tax returns by two months. The new deadline date to file returns will be 30 June, 2020.
- This decision comes in line with the directives of the Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to provide the necessary services to citizens and residents, foremost of which is to provide safety and protection from COVID-19 and to ensure the continuation of their healthy life

[The Pearl announces rent exemptions](#)

Al Raya – 18 March 2020

- The Pearl announced that it will exempt shops, cafes and restaurants from rents for three months, effective April 2020

[Woqoud announces rent exemption for three months](#)

Al Raya – 18 March 2020

- Woqoud exempts all shops from rental payment for three months effective April 2020

[Qatari Diar announces 3-month rent exemption for commercial units](#)

The Peninsula – 17 March 2020

- Qatari Diar Real Estate Company announced the exemption of all tenants in the company's Lusail Marina restaurants and cafes, as well as the shops that continue to operate in Barwa Commercial Avenue (Abu Hamour) from rent for three months starting from April 2020

[Qatar Foundation waives rents for six months](#)

Qatar Tribune – 17 March 2020

- QF has waived rental payments for its external SME retail tenants for six months, to support them in overcoming the challenges created by the worldwide coronavirus outbreak

[Doha Bank announces measures to help SMEs](#)

Gulf Times – 17 March 2020

- Doha bank decided to extend support to borrowers under the SME segment by postponement upon request up to 90 days of their instalments under term loan and payments under LTR/ STPF facilities falling due up to June 30
- Doha Bank will not charge penal interest and fee for the same

[Manateq announces rent exemption for six months](#)

The Peninsula – 16 March 2020



- Manateq announced in statement on their website that logistics parks and industrial zone are all exempted from rent for a period of six months
- Aspire Zone also announced today that all restaurants and café in their zone will be exempted from rent and service fees until further notice

[Banks, real estate majors offer relief to customers over COVID-19 stress](#)

The Peninsula – 16 March 2020

- QNB announced that all payments under their SMEs loan holders and Documentary Credits will be postponed for three months without any interest or fee starting March 2020
- Ahli Bank decided to postpone loans instalment for individual customers who might experience financial difficulties in making repayments to their loans on time
- Barwa Real Estate Group announced postponing payments for rents of its commercial units, showrooms, warehouses, workshops, and offices, for a period of three months starting from April 2020
- Msheireb Properties exempted all retailers and F&B tenants at Msheireb Downtown Doha from rental costs and other service charges effective March 15th until further notice

[Qatar Airways announces full refund or free ticket rescheduling amid coronavirus](#)

Qatar Tribune – 16 March 2020

- Qatar Airways announced that passengers affected by flight cancellation due to coronavirus can get a full refund or re-book their tickets to alternative dates without charge

[Mall of Qatar exempts retailers from rent for three months](#)

The Peninsula – 16 March 2020

- Mall of Qatar has announced that all the retailers will get three-month rent exemption due to the current public health scenario

[Ezdan Mall stores are exempt from 3-month rents](#)

Al Raya - 16 March 2020

- Ezdan Holding Group and Ezdan Mall Company announced that tenants in Ezdan Mall, Al Gharafa, Al Wakrah and Al Wakeer are exempted from the upcoming March, April and May rents, as part of its keenness to provide support to its partners in light of the current situation

[Al Meera built a new field branch in 48 hrs and takes all measures to ensure continued supply of goods](#)

Al Sharq - 16 March 2020



- Al Meera Company for Consumer Goods Company announced the launch of a package of immediate measures that come in response to the prevention of the emerging corona virus (Covid-19), as it opened a new field branch in the Mukaynis area to provide products and food commodities for workers residing in this region, which was built in 48 hours

[QIB suspends for loan payment for SMEs](#)

Al Arab - 15 March 2020

- Qatar Islamic Bank announced the postponement of the loan installments and documentary credits due on small and medium companies for a period of 3 months, without profits

[Ooredoo launches #StayHomeWithOoredoo campaign to support customers](#)

The Peninsula - 15 March 2020

- Anticipating a greater need for data and for fast, reliable internet for the many Doha citizens and residents now working from home, home schooling and reducing social contact under guidelines issued by the Qatar government, Ooredoo is offering its customers extra data, faster internet speeds and free Mobile Money remittances

[Katara exempts restaurant owners from rent and other fees](#)

MENA FN - 14 March 2020

- Katara has exempt all investors and owners of restaurants and cafes from rent and other fees like electricity and water

